

BREWOD.

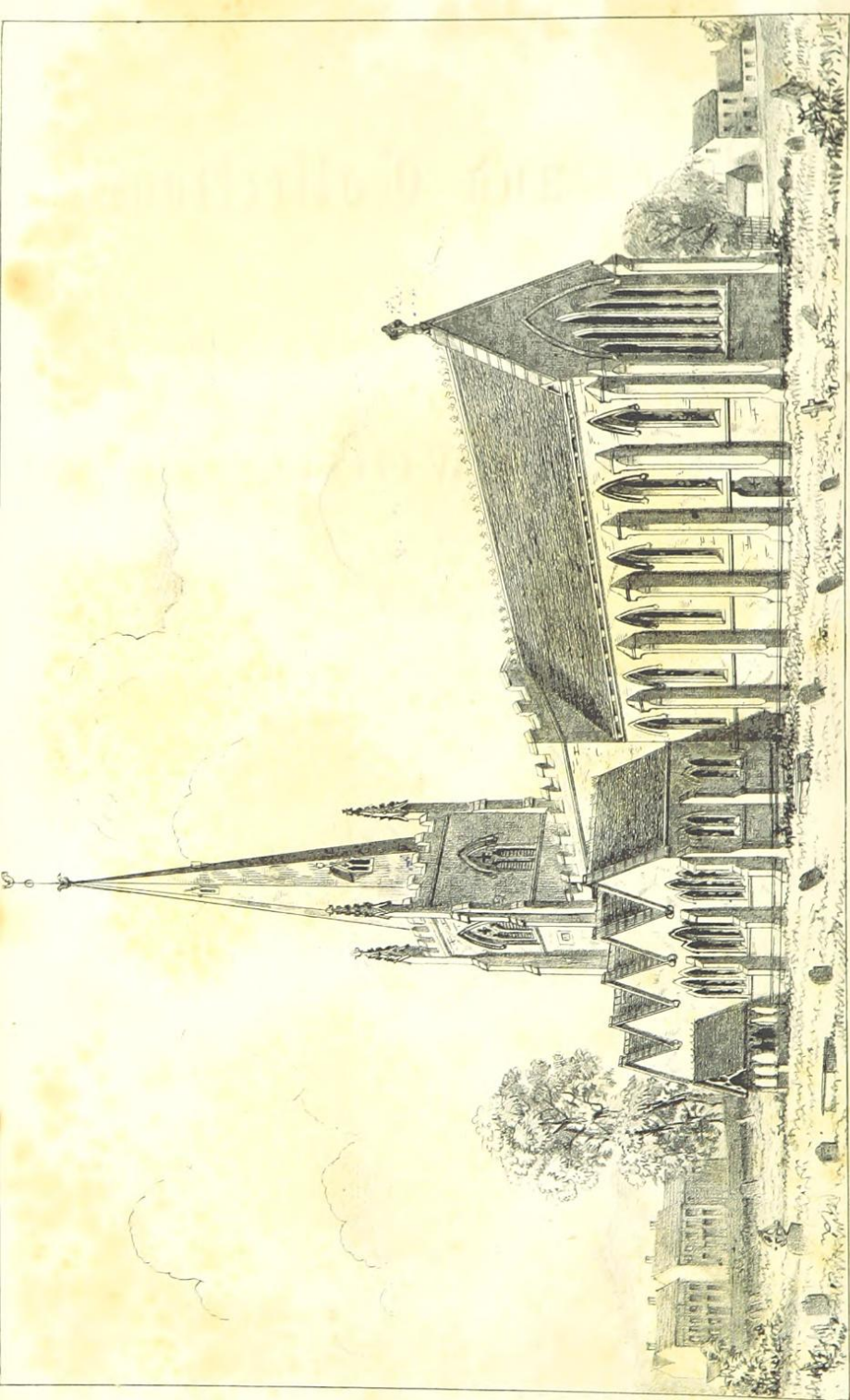




£1. 5. 0







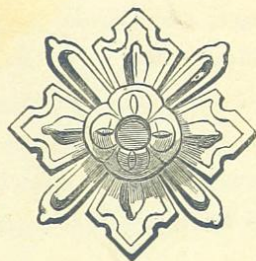
10127. ee. 72.

# Notes and Collections

RELATING TO

BREWOD,  
K

STAFFORDSHIRE.



Printed at Wolverhampton, (for Private Use only,)

BY WILLIAM PARKE.

MDCCLVIII.





## NOTES AND COLLECTIONS.

---

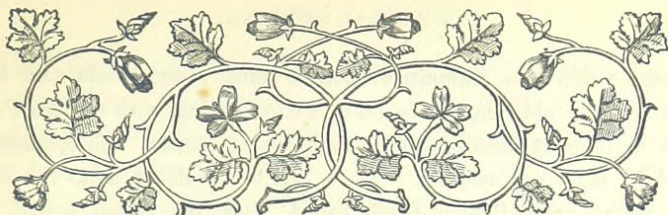
**T**HIS little book is the result of the pleasant labours of two friends : one of them a native of Brewood, the other long a resident there.

For upwards of twenty years have the Collectors of BREWOOD NOTES been ever on the alert, in their favourite pursuit, raking from antique recesses, as opportunities occurred, the time-stained fragments which form the following pages ; not that any great amount of time has actually been devoted to the search, for life has had more serious claims, and the cares and duties of business have not been omitted or slighted ; but the idea has never been banished, and every favourable occasion has been seized to bring together the various and disconnected portions which lay scattered among so many public and private stores.

October, 1858.







## NOTES AND COLLECTIONS

RELATIVE TO

# BREWOD.

---

### GENERAL OUTLINE.

---

**O**F BREWOOD before the Norman Conquest we have few traces. There is a passage in Gough's *Additions to Camden*, which gives it a Roman origin. The author says:—"Here about lay Pennocrucium. The village of Stretton lies a little to the north of the road: and a mile south is Brewood, another village on the Penk, which they say has been an old city. On ploughing the fields they frequently find Roman coins and other antiquities. In that great old city King John kept his court."<sup>1</sup> He goes on—"A little brook, called Horsebrook, runs a pasture or two below the road, and parallel to it into the Penk. It is a very full river, and the bridge it runs through is broad. The Watling Street is here east and west. Three large stone bridges cross the river in two miles. The old Roman city no doubt was by the road-side somewhat near here, and, perhaps, by Horsebrook. Brewood may have been a Roman town, but it is too far out of the road" (*i.e.* the Watling Street) "for the convenience of travellers," and so, the author goes on to argue, could not have been the ancient Pennocrucium.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See copies of Patent Rolls hereafter.

<sup>2</sup> Camden's later notes on Brewood will be found presently.

Some writers on antiquities about a century ago would fain have identified the old Roman station of Pennocrucium with modern Penkridge, arguing apparently from a similarity of names. No speculation could be more preposterous. There can be no doubt as to the exact line of the great Roman Road, called, since the Saxon period, the Watling Street, and the *Itinerary* of Richard of Cirencester (who lived in the fourteenth century, but who professes to compose his work "from certain fragments left by a Roman general,") clearly places Pennocrucium upon the exact line of the road.

We may observe here, that there is ample evidence that the Watling Street had been a British road before the Roman Invasion, if not for its whole length, yet for a very considerable portion; and the peculiar construction of the British, as contra-distinguished from the Roman, Road is even yet observable in many places. Now, the stream, which running by Brewood, crosses the Watling Street at Stretton Mill, and flows thence to Penkridge, still retains its British name which the Romans did not alter, and which the Saxons only modified. Pennoc was the original name, and probably there was no British town or station immediately on this spot. But the distance by the direct road between the two Roman towns of Etocetum and Uxaconium, rendered a military station requisite between them, and the banks of the Pennoc occurring exactly midway, the pillar or cross of Roman domination was erected, and the spot called, naturally, Pennocrucium. Looking on the map, and marking the site of the two towns above-named (now Wall and Wroxeter) the conclusion that Pennocrucium was situated on the spot where the Penk crosses the Watling Street Road, will satisfy the mind in all its requirements.

That Pennocrucium was merely a military station, and not a city or town, is confirmed by Richard of Cirencester (quoted above).<sup>1</sup> In describing the principal places of the Carnabii, Etocetum and Uxaconium are named in their due order, but there is no mention of Pennocrucium which lay between them. The river Pennoc only crosses the Watling Street on this spot; and where now stands Stretton Mill, or close thereby, doubtlessly stood the Roman pillar marking the military station. It must be remembered that many years elapsed between the final with-

<sup>1</sup> Lib. i. c. vi.





drawal of Roman government from this island, and the establishment of Saxon authority; and during this space of time, the few dwellings which had arisen around the sign of Roman supremacy, disappeared entirely, or found for themselves new centres. And thus Stretton on the north, and Horsebrook on the south, may fairly be presumed to have been originally but suburbs of the Roman station.

Gough favours the idea of Brewwood having a Roman origin, and it might easily have perpetuated itself in Horsebrook, and still more southerly, until the Saxons, at a later date, seeking an appropriate site for a Christian church, fixed on the admirable spot where Brewwood Church now stands, and took for it the name of the spot—a wood on an eminence. Horsebrook and Stretton may have been, nay, undoubtedly were, fragments of the Roman Pennocrucium; and so, in a certain degree, may Brewwood itself be considered by continuation. But there cannot be a shadow of ground for calling Penkridge a Roman station, or associating it in any degree, even remote, with Pennocrucium.

During the Saxon period we find few certain records of Brewwood, though it lay in the middle of one of the most important Saxon kingdoms—Mercia,—excepting that one estate in the parish still retains the name arising from its Saxon admeasurement of extent, namely, “The Hide.”<sup>1</sup> The actual quantity contained in a hide of land has never been ascertained. The supposed origin of the name is, that a grant being made of as much land as a hide would surround, the hide was carefully cut into thongs and united so as to encircle not less than one hundred acres, and, under favourable circumstances, much more.

Brewood was held by the Church certainly as early as 822. For when Bishop Athelwald instituted prebends of Lichfield Church, Brewood was one among them. But most probably Brewood was a part of the original endowment of the bishopric of Mercia by King Peda, the first Christian King of Mercia. Penda, the father of Peda, founded the Saxon kingdom of Mercia in the richest and securest portion of England, about A.D. 626. He was a very fine specimen of the pagan Saxon; a resolute worker, an unblenching fighter, and a most ambitious king: for after establishing himself in undisputed possession of the Midlands, he commenced aggressions on all his neighbours. William of Malmesbury<sup>2</sup> says of him—“With a mind loathing quiet, he began to

<sup>1</sup> Some traces of “The Hide” estate in Brewood will follow.

<sup>2</sup> Lib. I, cap. iv.

attack the neighbouring cities, to invade the confines of the surrounding kings, and to fill every thing with terror and confusion." After long success Penda was utterly discomfited in battle by Oswy, King of the Northumbrians,<sup>1</sup> about A.D. 655. But Oswy permitted Peada to succeed to his father's crown on condition of his becoming a Christian, and in addition gave him one of his daughters to wife. This conjoint mode of conversion—force and bribery—must needs have made Peada a capital Christian: but he appears to have been a prudent fellow, and was happy in his new wife and his new faith. Under the direction of his father-in-law, Oswy, Peada immediately instituted a bishopric of Mercia, and according to our chronicles, appointed Dwina to the episcopal office.

It is no wild speculation to say, that Brewood was part of this first endowment; because as early as any documents bear evidence of any description, Brewood is recognised as a portion of ancient Church property, and there is no doubt that the bishopric—first known as of Mercia entire, then of Lichfield, then as an archbishopric of Mercia (about 785,) then again as a bishopric of Lichfield, after the Conquest as a bishopric of Chester, then of Coventry and Lichfield united, afterwards of Lichfield and Coventry, and finally of Lichfield alone—possessed the manor of Brewood, in some form or other, from first to last.

When Offa (about 780) ruled over Mercia, he was, in the plenitude of his power, most bountiful to the Church; and by charters, still extant, he confirmed old possessions and granted new; and this is mentioned because the new grants name the properties, but the confirmations only use large general terms. Therefore, if, as we shall see directly, Brewood was not given to the Church by Offa, but was in the possession of the Church in Offa's time or immediately after, we have legitimate ground to conclude that it formed a portion of King Peada's original endowment.

Less than 170 years after the foundation of the Mercian bishopric, Athelwald, then bishop (as is stated in the outset,) instituted prebendal stalls in his cathedral. Here we obtain the unmistakable record of Brewood as one of these prebends. This stall was not long after merged in the deanery, (every Dean of Lichfield is Prebend of Brewood,) and the tithes of Brewood still remain attached to the office. The original manor was retained as a portion of the episcopal revenue, and so it still remains.

<sup>1</sup> He was at that period only Sovereign of Bernicia, one portion of Northumberland—by a little subsequent treachery he obtained all.



A separate and subordinate manor is attached to the deanery, of which, although the dean is Lord by virtue of his office, yet the bishop is also Lord Paramount.

The first perfect record of Brewood is in the deservedly celebrated *Domesday Book* of William the Conqueror. The portions connected with this parish, being freely rendered from the cramp original, stand thus:—

“The Bishop of Chester holds ‘BREUDE.’ The Church held it in the time of King Edward the Confessor. There are five hides. The arable land is twenty carucates. In the demesne are three carucates, eight *servi*, twenty-four *villani*, seventeen *bordarii*, with a priest holding fourteen carucates. Here are two mills, each of four shillings annual rent. Four acres of meadow, and a wood, one mile and a half long and one mile wide. In the time of Edward the Confessor the annual value was ten pounds, now it is one hundred shillings.” This depreciation of value, great as it is, is not very remarkable; as in the twenty years elapsing between the battle of Hastings and the taking of *Domesday* survey, the cruel oppression of the Saxon inhabitants had lessened the population, and in many quarters thrown land out of cultivation entirely.

Other manors within Brewood parish are mentioned in *Domesday Book*, as held by Robert de Stafford, namely, Broomhall, which was one hide, and of which Warren was sub-tenant: and five brethren (priests or monks) who were free men, had held it before the Conquest; and Coven, one hide, which had formerly belonged to Abic.

Of Chillington—which at a very early period formed an important part of the parish—no mention occurs in *Domesday*, but it may be thus accounted for:—It was held by one of the few Saxons who were permitted to retain lands *in capite* after the Conquest, and probably the Norman commissioners, who supervised the *Domesday* survey, treated these unfortunate natives with very great contempt. There are only two Saxon tenants in Staffordshire recorded in *Domesday*, and their record is ignominiously placed at the very foot of the roll, and is not distinguished by the name of the hundred in which the lands lie, as in every other instance. These tenants are Turstan, who is said to hold five hides in Drayton, and William, the son of Corbucion, who holds ten hides in “Sibeford.” Now, it is satisfactorily proved that the manor of Chillington came into the Giffard family from these Corbucions, as well as Walton, in the north of the county; and there is no

doubt that the ten hides in "Sibeford" include the manor and lands of Chillington.

In the reign of King John we obtain a few remarkable facts in connection with Brewood. The first and most important is, that John had a temporary residence, "Camera Regis," in Brewood. Many of the public charters and letters patent and close of his reign are given at Brewood, and the dates of these authentic documents enable us to fix with certainty the period of the king's visits; and a warrant of the king himself which is found among the *Close Rolls* (Rotulis Literarum Clausarum) in the Tower of London, acknowledges the payment of a sum of money at the Brewood residence, by the Sheriff of Nottingham, which the Barons of the Exchequer are directed to give credit for.

This King's Chamber of Brewood is somewhat of a mystery: for though the term used in the warrant just quoted "Camera Regis," is one applied ordinarily to royal residences; and though Gough (*supra*) says "in that great old city King John kept his court," yet it seems the royal palace and the great city must owe an important part of their existence to the old chronicler's exaggerations.

But there was, undoubtedly, an episcopal residence at Brewood, and a large park belonging to the bishops; the supposition is that when King John was staying at Brewood, he was only making a free use of the bishop's dwelling,—a liberty that king never scrupled at taking with any of his nobles, whether ecclesiastical or secular.

After the death of Geoffrey de Muschamp, Bishop of Lichfield, in 1208, the old dispute between the Prebendaries of Lichfield and the monks of Coventry, as to the right of election, was revived. The dispute, also, between King John and the Pope, as to the archbishopric of Canterbury, was then raging. The monks of Coventry proceeded to the election of a bishop by themselves, and appointed Joibert, their prior, to the vacant see: they forwarded their deed of election to Stephen Langton, whom the Pope had named Archbishop of Canterbury in opposition to the king. This enraged John beyond measure; and he not only seized the temporalities of the bishopric but the private property of Joibert; and the Church property he retained in his hands even after the election and consecration of William de Cornhull, in 1215. This will account for the king's occupation of Brewood episcopal seat, &c. in the intermediate years.



There is evidence of the existence of an episcopal residence at Brewood after King John's days, in the episcopate of Roger de Weseham, 43rd bishop, consecrated in 1245. An ordination of the vicarage of Aston-juxta-Birmingham, was made by Roger Weseham, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, dated at Brewood, the morrow after the feast of St. Cecily the Virgin, ann. 38 Henry III. (1254.) In 1255, Weseham resigned the episcopate formally at Brewood, and died there 1258.

In the Harleian MSS. in the British Museum (Cod. 3868) is a confirmation of the advowson of Kyngeston to Rocester Abbey, by Walter Langton, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield and Lord Treasurer, dated at Brewood, September 19, 1305.

Two years before the death of Geoffrey de Muschamp, King John had granted to him license to make a "saltorium" in his park of Brewood, according to the use of the forest. The "saltorium" was some kind of decoy or snare for deer, &c.

In A.D. 1221, Henry III. granted to William de Cornhull, then Bishop of Coventry, to have a weekly market in his town of Brewood on Friday.

In 1291 we have another authentic survey of the episcopal manor of Brewood. King Edward I. had conceded to Pope Nicolas the tenths of all church property in England; and a general survey of the kingdom took place for the purpose of putting this tax on a safe bases.

According to this survey (generally known as "Pope Nicolas's Taxation") the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield held in "BREWOD," in the Deanery of Lichfield, four carucates of land, worth thirty shillings yearly; and rents of assize worth twenty-one pounds yearly; and a view of frankpledge worth fifteen shillings; and pannage fifteen shillings; and stock worth sixty shillings; and pasturage and herbage worth fourteen shillings. And the bishop received from the auxiliary vills thirty shillings yearly. The perquisites of the court were thirty shillings a year; and there were two mills worth sixty shillings a year. The total annual value of the manor being thirty-eight pounds and four shillings, and the tenths declared at £3 16s. 4½d. It will be remembered that the whole value of the manor in A.D. 1086 was only five pounds.

In the same taxation of Pope Nicolas the prebendal stall of Brewood, in Lichfield Cathedral, was valued at forty marks a year.

By letters patent of Richard II. in the 13th year of his reign (1390,) the Bishop of Lichfield (Walter Skirlaw) was confirmed in the possession of his fair and market at Brewood.

In the great ecclesiastical survey of King Henry VIII. another accurate valuation of the ecclesiastical property at Brewood is obtained. This shall be given hereafter *in extenso*.

A visit of Queen Elizabeth to Chillington is the most striking event in the history of Brewood. This royal visit is thus recorded by the indefatigable Nichols, in his *Queen Elizabeth's Progresses*:—"After quitting Stafford, the Queen was entertained at Chillington by John Giffard, Esq. who had been High Sheriff of Staffordshire in 1573, an office which several of his ancestors (some of them of knightly degree) had honourably sustained in that and the two preceding centuries." A record of it is also found in the *Parish Register of Penkridge*, in these words:—"1575.—This year Elizabeth, Queen of England, travelled through the county of Stafford and town of Penkridge, making a journey to the house of John Giffard, Esquire."<sup>1</sup> It is singular that the event should not have excited sufficient interest in the authorities of Brewood, to have caused a similar entry to be made in the *Register* there.

In the reign of Elizabeth, and probably about 1585, Brewood Free Grammar School was founded by Dr. Knightley. All original charters or other documents referring to this foundation have been long lost, but such authentic details as are sustained by undoubted evidence, will be given hereafter.

During the Rebellion and Civil War, Brewood underwent the usual fate of places sometimes under the control of one of the contending parties, and sometimes under the other. When the King had the upper hand in the vicinity, the royal forces levied contributions; and when the Parliament was in the ascendant, their agents did the same. The two chief families of Brewood—the Giffards and the Fowkes (the Lanes had removed to Bentley)—were staunch adherents of the King. The Moretons of Engleton favoured the Parliament.

Some sad entries in the *Register of Burials* (which will be fully set forth hereafter) give unmistakable evidence of the condition of the

<sup>1</sup> The other places in Staffordshire visited by Queen Elizabeth this year were Lichfield, Chartley Castle (Lord Ferrers's,) and Stafford Castle (Lord Stafford's.)



country, and of how little human life was valued, or death sympathised with. Thus we find as buried—

“October 18, 1643. A Soldier.”

“December 26, 1643. A Soldier that came from Stafford.”

We can imagine such unfortunates perishing from the wounds of some chance encounter, and fearing even to enter a dwelling lest it should be that of a foe, and thus passing away without leaving even a name.

Then we have among the burials—

“June 1, 1644. John Wourt, slain at Bromehall by a soldier;” with no comment to lead us to suppose that the event was rare or surprising.

From a MS. journal of the Parliamentary Committee, which sat at Stafford in 1743—4—5, which is quoted largely by Stebbing Shaw in his *General History of Staffordshire*, we copy the following portions which relate to Brewood:—

“March 9, 1644. Peter Giffard and others, then prisoners at Stafford are ordered to be removed to Eccleshall and there secured until further orders,

“March 20, 1644. The committee are content that Mr. Giffard shall enjoy the benefit of all his estate for this year following, paying £260 quarterly, and the weekly pay and other duties; otherwise Mrs. Giffard is to depart from Chillington House within fourteen days, and not to live amongst her tenants; and they will allow her one-fifth part of what they shall receive, provided she gives them four parts of what she shall receive; also Mr. Giffard is to have his liberty for one hundred pounds in hand, and to live at Chillington, if his estate be compounded for, on this condition: to give sufficient security not to act anything against the Parliament, and so long he shall remain in quiet; and this is our determination, which we will not vary from.

“EDWARD LEIGH (Colonel.)

“HENRY STONE (Captain.)

“PHILIP JACKSON.”

“May 15, 1644. The weekly pay of Brewood-cum-membris is assigned to Captain John Port for his men.”

An order from the Parliament, dated May 24, 1644, assigns the rents and profits of Brewood-cum-membris to Sir William Brereton to maintain the garrison at Eccleshall. This being counter to the decision of the Stafford Committee, they appealed to the Parliament, and prayed

that the revenues of Brewood might still be at the disposal of the Committee. The last minute on this subject is dated July 23, 1644, but the result does not appear.

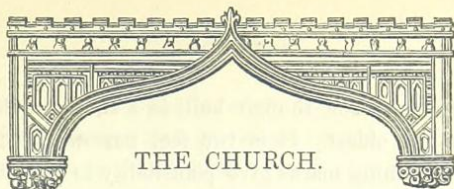
From a diary kept by Captain Symmonds, who was an officer in the Royal army, it appears that in May, 1645, "Mr. Giffard's house at Chillington, which had been a rebel garrison, is now deserted by themselves."

Brewood again figures in the front of that bright picture—the escape of Charles II. after the battle of Worcester. Boscobel itself, though not absolutely in Brewood, was part of the demesne of the Royal Forest of Brewood, of which more hereafter.

Among the parties who declined to take the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy on the accession of the House of Hanover are found—Creswell Wilkes, of Brewood Forge, Widow; Edward Bamford, of Brewood, Gentleman; and Thomas Giffard, of Chillington, Esquire.

Dr. Plot, in his *Natural History of Staffordshire*, after mentioning several earthquakes that had occurred in the previous year, says—"Nov. 4, 1678 there happend another earthquake in this county, it was most dreadfull of any place I could hear of, about Brewood, whither it came with a noise, not like a clap, but a flat rumbleing distant thunder, yet so great that it wakened people in their beds, at 11 a clock by the night, about what time it began, and continued till towards two in the morning; the earth moving very sensibly three times, at about  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hours distance, each motion from the other. The night following there happen'd another, but not so great, yet not without noise, as I suppose very few doe; if any, it must be where the fire damp kindles so deep in the earth, that the explosion cannot be heard through so dense a body as it may be thence to the superficies, though the convulsion may be sensible."





## THE CHURCH.

---

**O**F the Saxon church there is no relic. It may fairly be doubted whether it even occupied the present site. There are fields at a considerable distance from the existing structure, which are called—as they have been called for centuries—the Church Fields. The existing structure is the work of several periods of time, widely differing in their dates as well as in their architectural features.

The chancel is, most probably, a part—and the only part—of the original structure. From the character of its elegant, though plain, lancet windows, it is easily referred to the Early English style; but not to the earliest part of that style, for the glass is doubly recessed from the outer wall, and the windows have all evidently had hood-moulds, which have been chiselled off at some later date. Two characteristic buttresses at the east end, and the windows on the north and south, are all that are left to identify the date; for the roof is modern, of a low pitch, and with a flat ceiling underneath, and the east window, which was doubtlessly composed of a series of lancets, is entirely obliterated.

A common brick wall fills up the eastern end of the chancel, and a window, which has some resemblance to that of a modern Italian villa, admits light more than enough.

The nave, aisles, and tower, have been re-built at later dates. Of course as to these much must be left to rational speculation; but the existing masonry and some matters learned from the old accounts of the churchwardens, lead to a self-evident approximation to truth.

It is clear that the aisles of the original church were composed of a series of transverse gables, in the style of which a good specimen, probably of the same date, exists in St. Giles's, Oxford, and some few other places; and there was a porch both on the north and south. There were five of these gables on each side, and the second gable from the west formed the porch. It is probable that the aisles had been



erected at different periods, though built in a similar style, and that the north aisle was the oldest. It is two feet narrower than that on the south. Some remaining marks give plausibility to the supposition that the north aisle was re-built during the prevalence of the Decorated style of architecture; that the transverse gables on that side were destroyed, and the wall raised considerably, though the ancient foundations were preserved; and much of the ancient masonry, which is still to be noted and may be compared with the masonry of the chancel. It might fairly be presumed that the date of this repair was between 1320 and 1340.

It would appear that the next great work of restoration was the rebuilding of the nave and tower and spire, which are sufficiently characteristic to fix the date of their construction accurately. They are in the late Perpendicular style, and were built in the latter part of the reign of Henry VII. or the commencement of that of Henry VIII. perhaps about A.D. 1510—20.

This part of the church has completeness, and the inside has some fine features, though much has been done to disguise them. The nave is separated from the aisles by rows of tall plain octagon pillars, supporting five well-proportioned arches. The bases of these pillars are not merely concealed by the pews, but in a great many instances the projections of the base mouldings have been chiselled away to make knee-room. The capitals are good, but plain. Above each arch a hood-mould springs from corbels. All the corbels are heads or masks, each differing from the other, and some very fine. One of the finest features in the structure is the lofty arch opening from the nave into the tower; it is in itself quite perfect, but being partially concealed by the modern flat ceiling, its fine effect is destroyed.

Of the tower and spire it is pleasant to speak; for not only do they form a charming and conspicuous object from all sides of the town and the whole surrounding country, but they are, in themselves, works of the greatest merit and beauty.

The tower is a square structure, the sides of which measure twenty feet. It is heavily buttressed, has a fine west door, and a handsome window above it. It is battlemented, and pinnaced at the corner, and has four grotesque gargoyles, one in the middle of each wall, just below the battlements. The octagon spire is extremely graceful in its proportions, and the height of the whole is 156 feet.



It would appear that through the many changes it has had to undergo, the south aisle had retained its remarkable original features. While the roof of the nave had its peculiar character, and its flattened superficies was covered with lead, and the north aisle had its tiled roof hanging on to the nave, the south aisle still maintained its transverse gables, with their roofs covered with shingles. It appears in the churchwardens' accounts for 1656, and at intervals for a century later, that the continued and repeated expenses for repair were for "shingles" and for "shingling." That so primitive a mode of covering should be in existence so near our own day is matter of grave surprise, but the evidence of the fact is incontestable.

The exact period when the two aisles were assimilated is not to be ascertained; for no churchwardens' accounts have been discovered between 1750 and about 1796. It is clear that the great *reform* must have been accomplished in that interim. The lead was stripped from the flat roof of the nave—the transverse gables were removed—the present outer south wall patched up out of the old gables—and the whole covered by one plain slated roof. Both the porches have been long removed, but the north porch is remembered by some now living.

Internally, the nave and aisles together are seventy-eight feet long by sixty-four feet wide. The difference, above referred to, in the width of the aisles, still exists; and every suggestion thrown out above, as to the dates of the successive repairs and alteration, is fully sustained by evidence in the building itself.

The interior was re-fitted about thirty years ago, in the style of that day. The arrangements, as regards public worship, are convenient both to the officiating clergyman and the congregation, but have been accomplished without reference to architectural propriety.

The chancel is sixty-four feet long and twenty-three feet wide. There has evidently been a priest's door on the south side, under the second window from the east. A vestry, nearly as old as the chancel, but with a roof added much more recently, is on the north side. The only trace of original beauty in the chancel is in the lancet windows. The monstrous door, introduced into the south side, obliterating half a window; the close-boxed pews occupying a large space of the chancel floor; the beautiful altar-tombs fenced with coarse iron as if to resist an army;

the dropped ceiling covering up the original roof; and last—but not least—the east brick wall, with its ugly and unsuitable window, must be all seen to be appreciated. Before the re-pewing in 1827, the chancel was divided off from the church by an open oak screen, and on either side of the chancel were the usual carved stalls, indicating its ancient collegiate character.

The church is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. Its feast, or wake, is held in September. The 8th of September is the date assigned for the Nativity of Mary. The position of the church is not accurately east and west, but the slight variation would make good the tradition, that when the first lines were laid down for a church's foundation, the point taken as east was the exact point where the sun rose on the morning of the festival day of the patron saint.

It may be fitly mentioned here, that Brewood is one of the few places where the Curfew still continues to be rung, and undoubtedly has so continued ever since the first tyrannical edict for its establishment. It is rung only in the winter months—from Allhallowtide to Candlemas—for about fifteen minutes, commencing at eight o'clock each evening; and it is concluded by tolling on the great bell the number of the day of the month.

While a laudable reverence for ancient sacred edifices has been exhibited by the restoration of other churches in the neighbourhood, witness Penkridge, Bushbury, &c. it is fervently hoped that the Parish Church of Brewood, with its fine proportions, and in its original beauty surpassed by few, will not long be suffered to remain bereft of so many of the admirable features it originally possessed, which constitute the charm of ecclesiastical architecture, and are so well calculated to inspire deep religious feeling; but that the present prevailing taste for the restoring of such works of art, as, by the natural inroads of time or by the more lamentable intrusion of ignorance and false judgment, have been despoiled of their primitive beauty, will extend its influence to this once noble structure.

Brewood Church boasts but few monuments. When the nave was re-built, in the commencement of the sixteenth century, all existing memorials must have been destroyed; at least there are none remaining prior to that date. When it was re-pewed, &c. in 1827, many tablets

—especially some belonging to the Lanes, of Hyde, and the Moretons, of Engleton—were destroyed and removed, and probably some still exist under the flooring of the present pews.

---

Inscriptions on Tombs and Gravestones.

---

In the Chancel are four very fine altar-tombs, in perfect order and condition; the costumes particularly elegant and characteristic. They belong to the Chillington family.

1.—Altar-tomb. Three recumbent figures—a knight between two ladies. Inscribed round the margin, in Gothic letters—

Here lyeth the body of SIR JOHN GIFFORDE, of Chillington, in the countie of Stafforde, Knyght, who departed this transitorye lyf the xij day of November, in the yere of Lorde God M<sup>o</sup> CCCC<sup>o</sup> LVI. on whose soule Jesus have mercye amen.

[The unnamed ladies are—Joanna Hoorde, who was the mother of the celebrated Archbishop of Rheims, Peer of France,—and Elizabeth Greyseley. It was to this John Giffard that King Henry VIII. granted the Priory of the Black Ladies of Brewood.]

2.—Altar-tomb. Three figures. Lettered as the foregoing :—

Here lyeth the body of S. THOMAS GYFFARD, of Chyllington, K. whych departed this transitorye lyffe the xxvij day of May, in the yere of o<sup>r</sup> lorde god m<sup>o</sup> d<sup>o</sup> lx. and URSULA, his wyffe, which departed this transitory lyffe the day of in the yere of o<sup>r</sup> lord god m<sup>o</sup> d<sup>o</sup> lx. on whose soules jesus have mercy amen.

[The lady not named was the first wife of Sir Thomas and a daughter of Sir John Montgomery, Knight. The Ursula, second wife, was a daughter of Sir Robert Throckmorton, of Caughton. The year of her death is an evident error, as she survived her husband; the day and month have never been inserted. She died on the 10th of March, 1581.]



3.—Altar-tomb. Two figures. Very uncouth Roman capitals :—

Here lyeth the body of JOHN GYFORD, of Chylington, Esq. which  
departed the an<sup>o</sup> dne. and JEYSE, his wyfe, who  
departed this lyf y<sup>e</sup> 14th of Marc, an<sup>o</sup> dne 1608.

[The blanks have never been filled. John Giffard died in 1613.  
“Jeyse” or Joyce was a Leveson of Lilleshall.]

4.—Altar-tomb. Two figures. Roman letters :—

Hic jacet WALTERUS GIFFARD, armiger, dns de Chillington, obiit  
27 Aprille, 1632, et PHILLIPPA, vxor ejus filia Ricardi White,  
armiger, obiit 20 July, 1636.

[Philippa was a White of Southwarnboro', in the county of South-  
ampton.]

The four Giffards here recorded were Lords of Chillington in regular  
succession—son following father. It is somewhat remarkable  
that there are no other records of this family; it will appear from  
the Registers that Brewood has been their burial place from that  
day to this.]

The following mural monuments are on the north wall of the chan-  
cel :—

A large marble tablet, white on grey. The arms chiselled in a scroll  
at the top :—

Here lieth the body  
of the Honourable  
EDWARD MONCKTON,  
of Somerford Hall,  
in this parish.

He was the youngest son  
of John first Viscount Galway,  
by his second wife.

He married Sophia, daughter of  
George Lord Pigot, of Patshull,  
by whom he had issue  
fourteen children,  
eleven of whom survived him.

He was a Member  
 of the House of Commons  
 from the year 1780 to the year 1812.  
 Upwards of thirty years  
 Colonel of the Staffordshire Regiment  
 of Yeomanry Cavalry,  
 and more than fifty years  
 an acting Magistrate for this County.  
 He died the 1st day of July, 1832.

Aged 87 years.

Also the body  
 of SOPHIA, his Widow,  
 by whom this monument  
 was ordered to be erected  
 to his memory.  
 She died the 1st of January, 1834.  
 Aged 76 years.

A perfectly plain quadrangular tablet, white on stone colour :—

Sacred to the memory of  
 the following Children  
 of Edward and Sophia Monckton.  
 MARY LEONORA,  
 their second daughter.  
 She died the 11th day of November, 1791.  
 Aged 7 years.  
 PHILIP, their fifth son,  
 who died the 6th day of January, 1820,  
 aged 32 years,  
 at Goruckpore, in the East Indies,  
 of which District  
 he was judge and magistrate,  
 He married Harriette Carter,  
 (who died the 6th of June, 1821,)  
 by whom he left issue  
 three sons and two daughters.

SOPHIA,  
 their eldest daughter,  
 who died unmarried  
 the 12th day of May, 1833.  
 Aged 50 years.

EDWARD, their eldest son,  
 succeeded his Father at Somerford.  
 He was a Barrister of the Middle Temple,  
 and many years an acting Magistrate  
 and Lieutenant-Colonel of the Yeomanry  
 of this County.  
 He died unmarried the 17th day of March, 1848.  
 Aged 70 years.

[There is vacant space on the tablet for many more names.]

A plain square black tablet bears the following inscription, written by the late eminent Dr. Milner, the successor of Dr. Berington as V.A. in the Midland District :—

*Christian Stranger !*  
 Here,  
 among the ashes of the Faithful,  
 repose the Mortal Remains  
 of  
 THE RIGHT REVEREND CHARLES BERINGTON,  
 Doctor of the University of Paris,  
 and  
 Roman Catholic Bishop of the Midland District  
 in this kingdom.  
 He was descended from the ancient family  
 of  
 the Beringtons, of Moat Hall,  
 in the county of Salop.  
 Having worn an unsought and unsullied Mitre,  
 (only, alas ! for a few years)  
 at the age of fifty  
 He expired, and mankind lost a friend,



for  
 generous he was and hospitable,  
 and merit was sure of his smile.  
 His piety, like his other principles,  
 was primitive and without show.

“A good life hath its number of days, but a good name shall continue  
 for ever.”—*Ecclus.* c. 41.

This tribute was paid to his memory by his affectionate brothers  
 Thomas and Philip Berington.

He died June 8th, 1798.

R.I.P.

[The actual spot of his interment is marked by a stone, in the chancel floor, inscribed C. B. D.D. R.I.P.]

On the south wall of the chancel are the following :—

An elegant marble tablet, white on grey. Arms blazoned in colours  
 at foot :—

In a vault  
 near this monument  
 is interred  
 JANE VISCOUNTESS GALWAY,  
 who died the 1st of May, 1788,  
 aged 78 years.  
 She was the daughter of  
 Henry Westenra, Esq.  
 of Queen's County,  
 in the Kingdom of Ireland,  
 and second wife of  
 John Monckton first Viscount Galway,  
 by whom she had issue,  
 John,  
 settled at Fineshade, in Northamptonshire.  
 Henry,  
 who gloriously fell in 1778  
 at the head of the grenadiers in America,  
 after he had obtained the rank of

Lieutenant-Colonel in His Majesty Service.

Edward,

settled at Somerford, in this parish,

and Mary,

married to the Earl of Cork and Orrery.

This monument is erected

by her son Edward,

to the memory of

the best of mothers.

A perfectly plain pyramidal tablet, white on black :—

MARY

COUNTESS DOWAGER

OF

CORK AND ORRERY.

Died 30th of May, 1840.

Aged 93.

[This lady attained high celebrity in the fashionable and literary world. She was called "the connecting link between the literature of two centuries."]

A marble tablet of elegant design, surmounted by a veiled urn, white on black :—

In the churchyard, near the east end of this Chancel,

are deposited the remains of

MARIANNE HADEN,

Wife of the Rev. Alexander Bunn Haden, M.A. Vicar of this Parish.

After years of patient suffering,

yet ever occupied in works of Christian love and benevolence,

it pleased God to call her chastened and prepared spirit

into (as we humbly believe) his bliss and glory,

14th January, 1850. Aged 58 years.

"We sorrow not even as others which have no hope : for if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him."

1st *Thess.* iv. 13, 14.

The following inscriptions are from slabs in the floor of the Chancel:—

[The arms of Giffard and Thimelby in a lozenge, engraved in the stone.]

Here lieth the body of MARY GIFFARD, wife of Thomas Giffard, Esq. of Chillington, and daughter of John Thimelby, Esq. of Irnham, in the county of Lincoln, who departed this life the 13th of February, An. Do. 1753. Aged 95.

She was a Lady of great piety, strictness of morals, and regularity of life, and has left an example worthy of imitation; of the most extensive charity to the poor and distressed, and of singular liberality towards relations and friends.

R.I.P.

[This lady was childless; and after the death of her husband, in 1718, she spent her dowager days at Long Birch. Her memory is even yet cherished as "the good Madam Giffard." She bequeathed the Irnham Hall estate, now belonging to Lord Clifford of Chudleigh, to her cousin, Benedict Conquest, Esq. the ancestor of Lord Clifford and Lord Arundell.]



Here lieth the body of the Honourable CATHERINE COLLINGWOOD, who departed this life the 28th of Dec<sup>r</sup>. 1776. Aged 91. She was daughter of the Right Honourable Lord Viscount Montague, of Cowdrey, in Sussex, and relict of George Collingwood, Esq. of Eslington, in Yorkshire.

She was a Lady endowed with all virtues, but most remarkable for her charity to the poor and her Christian fortitude under divers afflictions.

Requiescat in Pace.

[It seems difficult to account for the burial of this lady at Brewood, as she is entirely unconnected with any family of the neighbourhood by ties of blood. From the Register it appears that she had died at Long Birch, and it is most probable that she had been a friend of the "good Madam Giffard," just mentioned. Mr. Collingwood, her husband, was executed for his share in the Rebellion of 1715, and "Madam" Giffard was widowed in 1718. Doubtless for the remainder of their long lives they lived together; Mrs. Collingwood surviving her friend twenty-three years.]



In Memory of the Rev. LAWRENCE OWEN, who died Nov<sup>r</sup>. 27th, 1784. Aged 34.

In memory of Mrs. ELIANOR CLARKE, wife of Mr. Daniel Clarke. She died Oct<sup>r</sup>. 12, 1757. Aged 62.

On a flat stone is an inscription, nearly trodden out, to the memory of the Rev. Mr. Clough, the pastor of the Roman Catholic congregation at Chillington, who died September 7, 1793, "beloved by all who knew him."



In Memory of JOHN GIFFARD, Esq. who died Oct<sup>r</sup>. 7, 1833, and of HELENA MARY, his wife, (daughter of John Sutton, Esq.) who died 24th June, 1837, whose ashes are here deposited.

R.I.P.

A very remarkable monument is placed on the Respond between the Nave and Chancel. It is in two compartments, with figures in relief. The inscription on the upper compartment is—

Neere to this place lyeth the bodies of MATTHEWE MORETON, of Engleton, Esq. and SARAH, his wyefe, whych hath depted. this lyfe 1660, and Sarah dyed 1672.

On the lower compartment :—

And also the bodies of EDWARD MORETON, of Engleton, Esq. and MARGERIE, his wife, which Edw. depted. this life 30th of July, 1630, and Margerie died 29th of November, 1633.

[This monument was accurately restored at the cost of the late Earl of Ducie, in the year 1838, when the dates were supplied for the upper compartment, which had, till then, been dateless.]

On the north wall of the Church there is a large and elegant tablet, but it is unfortunately partially concealed by the modern gallery, white on grey. Beneath the arms is this inscription :—

Here,  
 near the remains of his mother,  
 is deposited the body of  
 JOHN PERROTT, Esq.  
 late of Cannock, in this County.  
 He was twice married.

His first wife was Elizabeth, the eldest daughter  
 of the Rev. Dr. Byrche, of Leacroft Hall,  
 by whom he left issue a son and daughter.  
 And his second wife was Elizabeth, the widow  
 of Thomas Hawes, of London, Esq.  
 who survived him.  
 He died the 18th of Augt. 1802,  
 in the 76th year of his age.

[The mother of Mr. Perrott was Anastasia, daughter of George  
 Barbor, Esq. of Somerford Hall, and wife of the Rev. Thomas  
 Perrott, M.A. Rector of St. Martin Micklegate, York. She died  
 1749.]

On the same wall, a plain tablet, white on black :—

Sacred to the memory of  
 JOHN TURNER, Gent.  
 who died June 26th, 1824,  
 Aged 57 years.  
 Also of

MARY, wife of the above John Turner.  
 She died Febr. 25, 1840.  
 Aged 59 years.

“ So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto  
 wisdom. *Psalm* XC. 12.

On the same side, but close to the west door, an oval tablet, white  
 on grey :—

In memory of  
 STEPHEN ONION,  
 and ANNA, his wife,  
 whose remains lie underneath this seat and aisle,  
 with four of their children.

Stephen Onion  
died Aug<sup>t</sup> 28th, 1727. Aged 74.

Thomas Onion,  
their last surviving son,  
died Aug<sup>t</sup> 6, 1770,  
Aged 73.

[This monument must have been removed at some period when the church underwent alterations, as it is now not in an aisle, but in the middle of the nave, and in a situation where no seat or pew could ever have been.]

On the wall of the south aisle are two tablets, one very interesting. They were, until lately, placed on one of the pillars of the nave, where they were particularly unsightly. They were carefully restored in the year 1856, by Phineas Fowke Hussey, of Wyrley Grove, Esq. the direct lineal representative of the Fowkes, of Brewwood Hall. The first is a handsome white marble tablet, being an oval shield, with a mantling of a very graceful character, beautifully chiselled. The arms of Fowke and Ferrers, at the top, are in relief, and blazoned in colours.

Prope situs

THOMAS filius primogen :

Robert Fowke de Brewwood. Armiger.

Vir probus R. Car. I. **TΩ MAKAPITH** subditus fideles  
A Deoq : Eccles : Ang. filius genuinus (iniquis temporibus)

Duxit in Uxorem Mariam

Filiam Hen : Ferrers de Baddesley Clinton, Armiger.

Ex quo conjugio nate X filii et filiaē iij.

Quorum plurimi adolerunt nemo tamen ex ejus stirpe  
(Vide verum humanarum caducum et inane)

Superstes post annum Dom. MDCC.

Obierunt { ille } An. Dom { MDCLII.  
          { illa }           { MDCLIX.

Qui quiescant in pace

Renovato marmore horum memoriam restituit

Phineas Fowke. M.D.

Dicti Thomæ

ex fratre

Nepos

An. Dom. MDCCV.



## [TRANSLATION.]

Near this place lies  
 THOMAS, the eldest son  
 of Robert Fowke, of Brewood, Gentleman.  
 A good man,  
 a faithful subject to the "blessed" King Charles I.  
 and through God,  
 a true son of the English Church in a wicked time.  
 He took in marriage Mary,  
 daughter of Henry Ferrers, of Baddesley Clinton, Gentleman,  
 from which union sprung ten sons and daughters three,  
 of whom many grew up,  
 but none of them survived after the year of Grace 1700.  
 (See how frail and empty are things human!)

They died  
 He in 1652. She in 1659.  
 Who, resting in peace,  
 Have their memories restored by the renewal of this Marble  
 by Phineas Fowke, M.D.  
 Nephew of the said Thomas,  
 through his brother.  
 A.D. 1705.

The other is a plain marble tablet, with the arms of Holland and Fowke, well executed at the head, in relief, and blazoned in colours:—

In a vault adjoining are interred—

JANE, daughter of John Holland, of Brewood Hall, Esq. She died  
 Sept. 21st, 1707, aged 16 years.

PHINEAS FOWKE, of Little Wyrley, M.D. Fellow of the College of  
 Physicians. He died Jan<sup>y</sup>. 21, 1710, aged 72 years.

ANNE, second wife of Walter Fowke, father of Dr. Fowke, by  
 whom she had issue Jane, wife to John Holland. She died  
 Nov<sup>r</sup>. 13th, 1715.

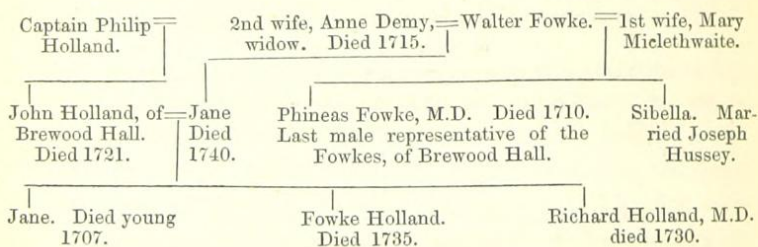
JOHN HOLLAND, Esq. son of Captain Philip Holland. He died the  
 last day of December, 1721, aged 63 years.

RICHARD HOLLAND, M.D. son of John and Jane Holland. He died  
 the 29th of October, 1730, aged 42 years.

Here also lyeth the body of FOWKE HOLLAND, who departed this life the last day of February, 1735, aged 35 years.

Here also lyeth the body of JANE HOLLAND, wife of John Holland. She departed this life the 24th of Dec<sup>r</sup>. 1740, aged 70 years.

This list of seven names on one tombstone appears confusing. The connection will be discovered by the following genealogical sketch:—



#### THE CHURCHYARD.

A few inscriptions on the tombs and gravestones in the churchyard follow:—

Sacred to the memory of the Rev. JOHN HUTTON, A.B. the only son of John and Margaret Hutton, of Burgh, near Carlisle, eleven years Curate of this Parish, who died November 17, 1818, aged 47 years.

Here lieth the Body of JOHN MOSS, Vicar of Brewood, who departed this life November 24, 1737, aged 85.

In memory of the Rev. Mr. ROGER BROMLEY, B.A. Head Master of Brewood School and Minister of Shareshill, who died December 13, 1761, aged 46.

MARY BROMLEY, widow of the Rev. Roger Bromley. Died October 18, 1798, aged 82.

In memory of SUSANNA BROMLEY, daughter of the Rev. Roger Bromley, who died January 20, 1815, aged 62 years.

In memory of WILLIAM BROMLEY, son of the Rev. Roger Bromley, who died March 19, 1785, aged 36, and of MARY BROMLEY, his widow, who died March 16, 1818, aged 69.

Here lieth the Body of Mrs. SUSANNA BRACEGIRDLE, of Brewood, widow, who died the 20th day of April, 1769, aged 78.



Here repose the Mortal Remains of Mr. JOHN CORVISSOR, late of Chillington. He died May 2, 1786, aged 48 years.

R.I.P.



Near this stone lie the Remains of WILLIAM CORVISSOR, late of Chillington, who died June 27, 1789, aged 58. Also MARY, his wife, who died January 11, 1816, aged 78 years.

Requiescant in Pace.



Beneath this stone repose the Mortal Remains of Mr. THOMAS CORVISSOR, of Wolverhampton, who died March 18, 1816, aged 81 years.

Requiescat in Pace.



Sacred to the memory of Mr. SAMUEL JONES, of Wolverhampton, who died May 15, 1816, aged 66 years.

Requiescat in Pace.



Sacred to the memory of the Rev. LEWIS L. LAWRENCE, B.A. late Curate of this parish, who died December 19, 1831, in the 29th year of his age.

In memory of the Rev. Mr. RICHARD FOWLER, B.A. Vicar of Brewood, who died March 23, 1762, in the 30th year of his age. Also MARY, his wife, who died May 16, 1796, aged 63.

In memory of FRANCIS COFFIN, Gent. of the Blackladies, who was buried at Clifton, near Bristol. And of MARY COFFIN, his wife. She died April 24, 1809. Also of Mrs. JANE WICKSTED, sister of the above Mr. Francis Coffin, who died March 21, 1781.

Here lieth the Body of WILLIAM COOPER, of Horsebrook, who departed this life September 26, and in the 56th year of his age, and in the year of our Lord God 1724.

Here lyeth the Body of JOHN HARPER, who departed this lyfe March 21, Anno Domini 1625. Neare this place were buried THOMAS, SAMUEL, and WALTER, his sonnes.

To the memory of FRANCES, the widow of the Rev. Thomas Gellma, Rector of Edlaston, in the county of Derby. She died February 29, 1816, aged 77 years.

JANE FIELDHOUSE, daughter of Dennis Fieldhouse, late of Penkridge, who died January 13, 1803, aged 69.

Sacred to the memory of MARY HURDD, who died February 3, 1829, aged 72 years. DOROTHY HURDD. Died December 2, 1840, aged 75 years.



Sacred to the memory of JEAN ALEXANDRE DES JARDINS, who died December 29, 1823, aged LVII.

In memory of GOODETH, wife of Jeremiah Smith, who departed this life February 3, 1750, aged 74.

She was a virtuous wife ;  
 Loving to her husband  
 And all her children dear,  
 That were left in extremity,  
 As it did plain appear ;  
 And now to rest in hope she's gone  
 For to enjoy an everlasting throne.

Here resteth the Body of JEREMIAH SMITH, D.D. He departed this life on the 21st day of December, 1854.

“ In the Day of Judgment, Good Lord deliver us ! ”

WILLIAM HAY. Died March 11, 1851, in his 49th year.

He that hath stricken me sustains,  
 And thus His mercy proves ;  
 I'll kiss the rod His hand ordains,  
 Who chastens those He loves.

Here lieth the Body of Mr. JOSEPH BAILEY, of Brewood Hall, son of Mr. John Bailey, of Horsebrook, who died November 5, 1751, aged 56.

Here lieth the Body of JOHN LLOYD, of the Parke Lane, who departed this life March 23, 1762, aged 20 years.

Death with his dart  
 Hath pierced my heart,  
 Though I was in my prime ;  
 My mother dear,  
 Thy grief forbear,  
 'Twas God's appointed time.

In memory of THOMAS PARKE, of Brewood, who died February 13, 1764, aged 53 years. Also here lyeth the Body of MARGARET, his wife, who died January 16, 1773, aged 77 years.

Near this stone also rest the Remains of JAMES PARKE, son of the above, who died November 28, 1787, aged 52 years, and of MARY, his wife, who died April 13, 1797, aged 61.

Here lieth the Body of JAMES PARKE, who departed this life February 14, 1845, aged 75, and of MARY, his wife, who died April 6, 1851, aged 86.

“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.”—*Titus*, 2, 13.

In a vault beneath this tomb lieth the Body of SARAH WRIGHT, wife of Richard Wright, Surgeon, of Brewood, who departed this life March 22, 1771, aged 54 years. Here also is interred RICHARD WRIGHT, Gent. who died the 8th of May, 1796, aged 74.

---

#### PARISH REGISTERS.

---

THE *Registers of Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials*, are tolerably perfect in Brewood parish, and are in capital preservation. They commence A.D. 1562; and, with a few occasional lapses, the series is complete to the present day.

The earliest entries appear to have been copied; for about half a century of registration is evidently in the same writing. It is probable that these entries were not only roughly and clumsily made, but, perhaps, they had been written on paper. Some careful, industrious, and praiseworthy vicar, in the early part of the seventeenth century, has corrected this failing, and has left a very beautifully written *Register*,



on vellum, which has every mark of indisputable authority. The same (apparent) writing continues to 1602, and then there is a void in the *Registers* for six years, when they are resumed (in the same book) in a totally different style.

Again ten years are dropped from 1645 to 1655. A pretty significant indication of the state of things during the Great Rebellion, and until the quiet of the kingdom was restored under the Protectorate of Cromwell. For 1645 was the year of the execution of Laud, from which year the temporary extinction of the Church, as an ally of the State, may be dated; and 1655 was the date of the establishment of that anomalous ecclesiastical authority of Cromwell—his Court of Tryers—a mixt clerical and lay commission of all denominations, which presented to all Church livings formerly in the gift of the Crown, and exercised a strange sort of spiritual and secular jurisdiction.

Few of the entries in these musty volumes possess public interest. To genealogists they afford great aid, for the succession of entries of the names of the great families of the parish—the Giffards, the Fowkes, the Moretons—is constant and regular. The continuance, through long years, of such names as Careless, Etheridge, Sansome, &c. &c. is also noteworthy.

A few entries are annexed, which are either remarkable in themselves or which lead to some natural conclusions.

---

#### Christenings.

Gerard Gifford, June 28, 1562.

Francisca Gifforde, August 4, 1563.

Edward Gifforde, September 4, 1564.

Elizabeth Careless, June 4, 1564.

Thomas Fowke—Margaret Fowke, March 31, 1570.

“Wright his child,” August 29, 1572.

Francis Careless, October 3, 1574.

John Gyfforde, January 30, 1578.

Roger Fowke, January 1, 1578.

- "Grace, a poor man's child," March 16, 1581.  
Henry, a poor child, February 25, 1582.  
Walter Fowke, January 16, 1585.  
Cassander Fowke, September 6, 1585.  
Margaret Morton, April 8, 1586.  
Matthew Morton, September 23, 1587.  
Joyce Fowke, September 5, 1588.  
Elizabeth Morton, February 1, 1589.  
Elizabeth Fowke, June 17, 1589.  
"Crosley's daughter's child," April 3, 1591.  
"A poor child, on Whitsunday, 1591."  
Isabella Morton, May 8, 1591.  
Edward Moreton, January 5, 1595.  
Thomas Morton, March 2, 1602.  
Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Morton, March 26, 1611.  
Frances Giffard, daughter of John Giffard, of the Whyte Ladies,  
February 12, 1613.  
Ferrars, son of Thomas Fowke, March 24, 1613.  
"A certain child, named Yevan, which was born in the house of Thomas  
Floyd, baptized 19th day of October, 1617, whose father and mother  
we know not." [An exact repetition of this, November 23, 1617,  
only "Coven" added.]  
Roger, son of Thomas Fowke, Gent. October 23, 1617.  
Sara, daughter of Matthew Morton, March 16, 1622. Also Jane, Mary,  
Apollina, Ann, Edward, Martha, Matthew, children of the same, from  
1625 to 1644.  
John, son of Clement Carles, March 17, 1628.  
Smith, son of Thomas Michell, March 5, 1636.  
Dorothy, daughter of John Fowke, of Gunston, Esq. August 24, 1643.  
Roger, son of John Fowke, Esq. May 15, 1645.  
Matthew, son of Edward Moreton, March 17, 1663.  
Edward, son of John Careless, of Brumhall, October 6, 1664.  
Pearsall, son of Matthew Moreton, March 29, 1671.  
Fowke, son of John Holland, of Brewood Hall, February 13, 1701.  
Anne, daughter of Sir Walter Wrottesley, Bart. September 22, 1702.  
Penelope Ducie, daughter of Matthew Ducie Morton, June 27, 1703.

Jeremiah, son of Jeremiah Smith, October 13, 1715.

Ann, daughter of Thomas Lane, Esq. of the Hide, November 16, 1731.

Joseph, son of Richard Holland, April 9, 1732.

Thomas, son of Thomas Lane, of the Hide, March 9, 1732.

Thomas, son of Richard Holland, September 2, 1734.

Thomas, son of Thomas Moreton, of Engleton, November 18, 1735.

Mary, daughter of Rev. R. Bromley, schoolmaster, of Brewood, October 13, 1747.

William, son of Rev. Roger Bromley, schoolmaster, December 2, 1748.

Jeremiah, son of Jeremiah and Ann Smith, August 23, 1771.

Henry, son of the Hon. Edward Monckton and Sophia, his wife, December 27, 1780.

Sophia, daughter of the Hon. Edward Monckton and Sophia, his wife, August 4, 1782.

John Hutchinson, son of George Croft, D.D. February 8, 1783. (Born December 30, 1782,)

William Corvisor Jones, son of Samuel and Ann Jones, May 17, 1784. (Baptized by Mr. Ant6ny Clough, of Chillington.)\*

[It is evidently unnecessary, because uninteresting, to increase the number of extracts from the *Baptismal Registers*. There are numerous others of the old families; the names most frequently occurring between the years 1562 and 1701 being Giffard, Fowke, Morton or Moreton, and Carless, spelt also indifferently Carlis, Carloss, Careles, and Carelesse.]

### Marriages.

Thomas Fowke, Gent. and Elizabeth Skevington, July 13, 1563.

Roger Fowke and Joan Fowke, April 11, 1570.

John Eggington and Isabel Morton, September 30, 1578.

John Carles and Joan Savage, October 5, 1584.

Francis Wightwick and Margaret Morton, February 3, 1586.

\* This last entry is given as an exemplification of several of a similar character; the baptisms being by a Roman Catholic priest, and not in the church. Cases of a parallel character will also be found among the *Registers of Burials*, when the actual interment has taken place at Whiteladies.



- John Carles and Joan Stone, April 27, 1588.  
John Careles and Ellen Fluite, September 7, 1595.  
John Careles and Joan Day, February 4, 1598.  
"William Heyes and Joane Alporte, of Tettenhall parish, married at  
Brewood, the 4th day of June, 1599, at the request of Sir Thomas  
Corbet, being sick, and dying the same day."  
John Careles and Isabel Cartwright, June 17, 1600.  
Henry Careless and Mary Duncalf, July 27, 1601.  
Ralph Adderley, of Black Hale, and Margaret Morton, Feb. 27, 1608.  
Thomas Morton, of Sheriffhales, and Elizabeth Morton, April 23, 1609.  
Clement Carles and Ann Yate, January 21, 1628.  
John Careless and Ann Blakemore, May 26, 1630.  
John Carelesse and Mary Broun, April 5, 1638.  
John Carlesse and Anne Sawyer, June 3, 1670.  
Clement Careless and Elizabeth Dale, April 18, 1697.  
Mr. Thomas Calcott and Madam Sarah Moreton, February 3, 1701.  
John Carelesse and Elizabeth Mountford, February 14, 1704.  
The Rev. Joseph Chillingworth, Curate of Brewood, and Mrs. Apollina  
Rock, November 29, 1725.  
Walter Byrch, of Leacroft, and Ann Clark, of Lichfield, July 6, 1727.  
Mr. John Rock and Mrs. Mary Barbor, October 19, 1735.  
The Rev. Thomas Nadauld and Elizabeth Emery, August 11, 1763.  
Robert Barbor and Clara Kervella, August 27, 1766.  
William Bromley and Mary Vaughton, February 14, 1774.  
John Wrottesley and Sophia Elizabeth Giffard, June 28, 1821.  
John Mytton and Caroline Mallet Giffard, October 29, 1821.  
Samuel Campbell Simpson and Charlotte Giffard, December 5, 1826.  
Rev. Charles C. Whitmore and Anne Barbara Giffard, March 30, 1829.  
Sir T. F. F. Boughey, Bart. and Louisa Paulina Giffard, Dec. 27, 1832.  
George Whichcote (Lieutenant-Colonel) and Charlotte Sophia Monckton,  
February 24, 1842.  
Frederic William Wilson and Dora Mason, July 29, 1843.  
William George Leigh Wacey (clerk) and Eliza Leonora Monckton,  
April 23, 1844.  
John Bourne and Ethel Mason, February 26, 1847.  
Thomas Tillotson and Charlotte Simpson, November 19, 1850.

## Burials.

- Mistres Johan Gifforde, June 20, 1572.  
 Mr. Devorax his lackye drowned at Chillington, August 21, 1572.  
 Roger Fowke, of Gunstone, December 8, 1575.  
 Francis Carles, February 28, 1579.  
 Dame Ursula Gifforde, March 17, 1581.  
 Matthew Morton, August 11, 1582.  
 Thomas Fowke, June 3, 1583.  
 John Gifforde, January 8, 1583.  
 George Gyffarde, June 17, 1585.  
 John Fowke, March 28, 1586.  
 "A poor child," February 18, 1589.  
 Mrs. Johan Fowke, October 18, 1590.  
 William Fowke, July 13, 1590.  
 "Jacke of Chillington," March 1, 1590.  
 "A poor boy overwhelmed with haye," July 31, 1591.  
 "A poor woman, called Anne Digbye," April 3, 1592.  
 John Giffarde, August 23, 1592.  
 Roger Fowke, March 25, 1594.  
 Robert Giffarde, May 31, 1595.  
 Edward Moreton, November 13, 1596.  
 Roger Careless, February 9, 1597.  
 "Three poor folkes," 1598.  
 Walter Gyffarde, June 8, 1599.  
 Mrs. Sibyl Fowke, June 15, 1600.  
 Edward Carelesse, May 27, 1602.  
 John Giffard, Esq. August 24, 1613.  
 "Winny, whose surname we know not," March 1, 1617.  
 "Yevan, a poor wandering boy," September 13, 1618.  
 "Margaret, a poor wandering wench, dying in the Crosse," March 23, 1618.  
 Gerrard Giffard, Gent. April 20, 1620.  
 John, son to Peter Giffard, of Blackladies, November 14, 1620.  
 Joseph Giffard, December 9, 1621

William Fowke, July 3, 1622.

"A certain poor child dying in the church porch," May 22, 1623.

Thomas Carles, July 6, 1624.

Robert Carles, of Chillington, June 30, 1625.

Mistress Frances Gifford, of Whiteladies, July 13, 1625.

"A poor child, which came from London," September 15, 1626.

Margaret Giffard, of Whiteladies, December 31, 1627.

Francis Fowke, of Gunston, March 28, 1529.

Edward Palmer, Vicar of Brewood, November 20, 1629.

Edward Morton, of Engleton, Gent. July 30, 1630.

Walter Giffard, Esq. May 9, 1632.

Margery Morton, December 1, 1633.

Winifred, daughter of Walter Giffard, April 12, 1636.

Thomas Moreton, Gent. February 1, 1639.

Margery, daughter of Roger Fowke, Esq. January 13, 1641.

Roger, son of Thomas Fowke, Esq. March 2, 1641.

Dorothy Giffard, January 14, 1642.

"A soldier," October 18, 1643.

"A soldier that came from Stafford," December 26, 1643.

John Wourt, slain at Bromehall by a soldier, June 1, 1644.

Edward Careless, August 12, 1644.

Francis Fowke, Gent. August 24, 1661.

John Fowke, of Brewood Hall, December 2, 1665.

Edward Fowke, of Brewood, May 4, 1677.

Richard Emery, Vicar of Brewood, January 8, 1678.

Francis Fowke, March 8, 1680.

Henry Fowke, Gent. April 16, 1681.

At this place the following memorandum occurs:—"King Charles y<sup>e</sup> Seconde died the 6th day of February, a bouthe a Leaven of the Clocke in y<sup>e</sup> foure noone, in y<sup>e</sup> yeare 1685." [It may fairly be hoped that ALL the entries in the *Brewood Registers* were not made by the Vicar.]

"A milner's wife from the Hyde Mill," August 28, 1687.

"Cornall William Carelesse, of Bromhall," May 28, 1689.\*

\* This is the Colonel Carless or Carlos who supported King Charles II. in the oak at Boscobel, on the 6th of September, 1651.

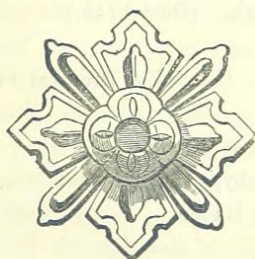


Symon, son of Captain Thomas Fowke, August 4, 1695.  
 John Giffard, of Chillington, March 19, 1695.  
 Matthew Moreton, of Engleton, Esq. November 25, 1669.  
 Pearsall, son of Matthew Moreton, January 6, 1672.  
 John Moreton, of Engleton, September 15, 1676.  
 Gabriel, son of Edward Moreton, Esq. November 5, 1677.  
 Edward Moreton, Esq. May 6, 1687.  
 Nicholas Giffard, Gent. August 5, 1697.  
 Clement Carelesse, of Chillington, September 21, 1702.  
 George Carloss, February 16, 1703.  
 Madam Elizabeth Moreton, of Engleton, November 30, 1703.  
 Thomas Fitzherbert, from Chillington Hall, September 30, 1707.  
 Mary Partridge that was drowned June 9, 1708.  
 "Doctor" Phineas Fowke, from Little Wyrley, January 26, 1711.  
 Madam Fitzherbert, November 11, 1711.  
 Sir Walter Wrottesley, Bart. April 4, 1712.  
 John Carelesse, of Broomhall, February 2, 1713.  
 Mr. Edward Carloss, September, 10, 1713.  
 Edward Carelesse, sen. May 7, 1714.  
 Madam Anne Fowke, of Brewood Hall, widow, November 19, 1715.  
 Mr. Tonkes, late Vicar of Brewood, October 3, 1715.  
 Walter Walhouse, of Penkridge, January 28, 1716.  
 John Giffard, of Blackladies, January 22, 1710.  
 Madam Frances Giffard, widow, April 1, 1711.  
 Mrs. Magdalen Giffard, from Chillington, April 3, 1712.  
 Thomas Giffard, of Chillington, October 30, 1718.  
 John Carelesse, sen. March 3, 1719.  
 George Sansome, sen. May 4, 1719. [He was buried in linen, and notice  
 of it given to the Churchwardens.]  
 Anne Lloyd, buried at Whiteladies, July 22, 1719.  
 Joseph Lloyd, buried at Blackladies, August 13, 1719.\*  
 Mary Woorel, buried at Whiteladies, December 26, 1719.  
 Anne Pendrel, December 30, 1719.  
 Augustine Giffard, February 20, 1720.

\* It is presumed that "Blackladies" in this entry is an error for "Whiteladies," as there was no known place of sepulture at the former place.

- Mrs. Giffard, the wife of Peter Giffard, Esq. May 3, 1722.  
Charles Carlos, March 9, 1725. (Died the 3rd.)  
Elizabeth Carlos, widow, September 14, 1727.  
Barbara, daughter of Peter Giffard, March 21, 1727. (Died 14th.)  
The Hon. Barbara, wife of Peter Giffard, Esq. July 6, 1729.  
Dr. Richard Holland, M.D. November 1, 1730.  
Francis Pool, sexton to this church, September 24, 1731, aged 97.  
The Hon. Lady Anne Wrottesley, of Somerford, widow, July 10, 1732.  
Thomas, son of Richard Holland, September 5, 1734.  
Fowke Holland, Esq, of Shrewsbury, February 4, 1736.  
Mrs. Helena Giffard, wife of Peter Giffard, May 27, 1737.  
Rev. John Moss, Vicar, November 27, 1737.  
Mrs. Jane Holland, from Shrewsbury, December 27, 1740.  
Peter Giffard, of Chillington, July 3, 1746.  
Anastasia Perrott, widow of the late Rev. Thomas Perrott, late of York,  
November 18, 1749.  
Mrs. Mary Giffard, of Longbitch, February 17, 1753.  
Eleanor, wife of Mr. Daniel Clarke, October 14, 1757.  
Ann, wife of William Muchall, of Somerford, February 15, 1760, aged 96.  
Mr. Benjamin Blake, under schoolmaster, March 15, 1760.  
Robert Barbor, of Summerford, Esq. July 31, 1761.  
The Rev. Roger Bromley, December 14, 1761.  
The Hon. Barbara, wife of Thomas Giffard, Esq. April 12, 1762.  
The Rev. Richard Fowler, Vicar of Brewood, March 26, 1762.  
Mrs. Anne Barbor, relict of Robert Barbor, February 23, 1764.  
George Barbor, of Somerford, October 14, 1764.  
Barbara, wife of Thomas Giffard, Esq. May 20, 1764.  
John Anthony Stonor, Gent. Long Birch, May 15, 1765.  
Anne, daughter of Robert and Elizabeth Barbor, of Standeford, April 8,  
1765.  
William Morris, Kiddermore Green, December 24, 1768, aged 93.  
Clara, wife of Robert Barbor, Esq. July 28, 1771.  
Mrs. Catherine Collingwood, from Longbitch, December 31, 1776.  
Thomas Giffard, of Chillington, Esq. February 3, 1776, aged 41.  
Mary Bucknell, widow, April 23, 1778, aged 94.  
Rev. Timothy Colebatch, Head Master of Brewood School, August 10,  
1778.

- John Hornihold, Esq. of Long Birch, December 30, 1778.  
Margaret Nabbs, widow, January 6, 1779, aged 101.  
Blakeman Simpson, Clerk of Brewood, June 22, 1781.  
Mr. William Bromley, from Birmingham, March 22, 1785.  
Jane Viscountess Galway, May 11, 1788, aged 78.  
The Rev. Antony Clough, September 10, 1793.  
Mary, relict of the late Rev. Richard Fowler, from Pendeford, May 20, 1796.  
Rev. John Wright, from Long Birch, July 26, 1797.  
Robert Ducie Morton, son and heir to Colonel Matthew Ducie Morton, of Engleton, March 7, 1797.  
Rev. Charles Berington, from Long Birch, June 11, 1798.  
Thomas Careless, Second Master of Brewood School, February 5, 1800.  
John Perrott, Esq. of Cannock, August 25, 1802.  
Thomas Giffard, Esq. of Chillington, August 9, 1823, aged 59.  
The Hon. Edward Monckton, July 9, 1832, aged 87.  
John Giffard, Esq. October 16, 1833.  
Sophia, widow of the Hon. Edward Monckton, June 8, 1834, aged 76.  
Francis John Giffard, January 15, 1836.  
Robert Edward Giffard, January 18, 1836.  
Helena Mary, widow of John Giffard, Esq. July 1, 1837.  
Mary Countess Dowager of Cork and Orrery, June 6, 1840, aged 93.  
Barbara Denise, wife of William Lacon Childe, September 12, 1841.  
Lucy Harriet Giffard, October 16, 1843.  
The Lady Charlotte, widow of the late Thomas Giffard, of Chillington, Esq. November 29, 1844, aged 80.  
Charles Robert Giffard, June 8, 1853.





## VICARS OF BREWOOD.

---

**T**HE list which follows can only be deemed an approximation. The *Registers* at Lichfield have been searched, but several of the books are missing. The names obtained from the *Lichfield Registers* have the exact date of their respective institutions affixed; the others have been supplied from the *Parish Registers*, the *Parish Accounts*, and from some tombstones in the churchyard. The patron has invariably been the Dean of Lichfield.

1553. (Instituted June 10.) Richard Warton.

1623. Edward Palmer.

— Augustin Lindsell, Professor of Theology.

1629. (February 20.) William Lindsell.

1634. William Chandler.

[It is probable that between 1645 and 1655 there was a vacancy. There are no entries in the *Register Books* during that period. An entry appears in the *Churchwardens' Accounts* in 1653 of a payment to a "poor minister that preached."]

1663. (July 27.) Charles Bagnold.

1664. (October 19.) Richard Emery. (Buried at Brewood 1678.)

1696. (Perhaps earlier.) William Tonkes. (Buried at Brewood 1715.)

1715. (February 28.) Charles Du Gard.

1729. John Moss. (Buried at Brewood 1737.)

1737. William Budworth. (Died 1745.)

1746. Richard Fenton.

1759. Richard Fowler. (Buried at Brewood 1762.)

1762. Thomas Fielde.

1767. (August.) Thomas Muchall.

1804. Baptist John Proby. (Died 1830.)

1830. Alexander Bunn Haden.





## THE FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

**W**AS founded by a Dr. Knightley, and endowed by him during his life time with property of considerable value in houses and lands.

Who Dr. Knightley was ; what was his connection with Brewood ; and what his impelling motive to this praiseworthy benefaction, are all things consigned to an irremediable oblivion. The only evidence there is of the early days of the school is to be found in the records of the Court of Chancery, where a suit was instituted about A.D. 1625, a commission of enquiry issued, and a decree pronounced in A.D. 1630.

It appears that Dr. Knightley gave the lands, &c. for the school endowment to Sir Thomas Giffard, of Chillington ; and it is quite probable and possible that he gave them without any legal deeds or appointments. The complainants in the suit above-named affirm that the estates were granted by Dr. Knightley to Sir Thomas Giffard and other feoffees ; but that, Sir Thomas being a man of the best estate and greatest power in the parish, the other feoffees, and all the rest of the parishioners, wholly trusted Sir Thomas with the entire management of the school and its revenues. Either way, Sir Thomas Giffard had the entire and undisturbed control of the institution, and his management and direction are entirely without impeachment.

The date of Dr. Knightley's donation must be left to speculation. The bill of the complainant in the suit above referred to, and the finding of the commission of enquiry, affirm that the school had been founded for a space of time, "whereof the memory of man goeth not to the contrary." But Sir Thomas Giffard survived until 1560, and the trust would not have been committed to him before he had attained to manhood ; in fact, it must have been after he had won his knighthood. There is existing evidence that he was an esquire in 1539, though he had been Sheriff of Staffordshire in 1530 ; and there is no evidence of his being a knight before the first year of Queen Mary, when he was again sheriff. If the school was first endowed after the accession of Mary,

it was of course after Popery was again in the dominant; and whether the sole management was at once assigned to Sir Thomas Giffard by Dr. Knightley himself, or resigned gratefully by the parish at large, in either case it was clearly and entirely under Roman Catholic control.

The Chancery complainant further states, that "three score and ten years ago" Sir John Giffard, Knight, father of the said Sir Thomas, did by his will bequeath land, at Hartley Green, near Stafford, to the same school. Sir John died in 1556, which exactly accords; but it does not appear that he ever gave lands to the school, but only fixed rents issuing from such lands.

About A.D. 1575 (17 Eliz.) John Lane, of the Hyde, and Matthew Moreton, of Engleton, exhibited a bill of complaint in Chancery, against John Giffard, of Chillington, the son and heir of Sir Thomas, who had died in 1560. The terms of the complaint are very loose and general. It asserts that John Giffard endeavoured to appropriate the fee simple of the school estates to himself, and limited the school rights to certain rents, &c. issuing from the estates. John Giffard, in his reply, freely confesses that the estates referred to do of right belong to the school, and amply acknowledges his trust. It would seem that Lane and Moreton were perfectly satisfied with this answer, and made no farther move in the matter, either for a fuller declaration of the trust, or for any interference with John Giffard's management. John Giffard afterwards appointed a separate bailiff to overlook the school property and receive the rents.

Nothing more is heard until the complaint of Francis More or Moore, in 1625, which led to the decree first above referred to. It cannot be pleaded that this complaint is loose or general. It distinctly states that Walter, the son and heir of John last named, has appropriated the school estates to his own use—that the same estates now produce thirty-seven pounds six shillings and two-pence annually,—but that Watler Giffard only paid to the master eighteen pounds a year, and to the usher six pounds thirteen shillings and four-pence—that he had given leases of some of the tenements in his own name at an inadequate rent—and had appointed unfit and unlearned masters, to the great evil of the "King's Majesty's subjects inhabiting thereabouts, being a place where many Popish recusants or such as are addicted to Popery do dwell."



Perhaps the whole gist of the complaint lies in this last sentence. The entire reign of James I. with its fierce penal laws, and not less with the rapid growth in English hearts of affection for the pure English Church, must have tended strongly towards the withdrawal of such a seminary as Brewood School from Romanist supervision.

For the complaint of More is not all sustained by evidence. It is clear that Walter Giffard had the entire management of the school and the estate, as his father and his grandfather had before him. It is true that the commission issued to the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield resulted in an inquisition, affirming that the estates belonging to the school were of the annual value of £37 6s. 2d. ; but Walter Giffard, in his reply, stated that he had never received more than £22 a year from the property, though he had for years paid £18 a year to the master, and £6 13s. 4d. to the usher ; and the inquisition was referred back to the commissioners for further enquiry.

The final result was, that Walter Giffard was directed by the court to convey and assure the estates to feoffees named in the decree, among whom were Thomas Lane, John Fowke, Francis Somerford, Matthew Moreton, and Thomas Fowke, Esqrs. ; but he was not ordered to re-pay any sum supposed to have been received and misappropriated by him, and so charged by the bill ; therefore, we may fairly assume that no worse crime than negligence was proved against him.

But Francis More was not satisfied with his partial success in the matter, and another commission was issued at his suit. An inquisition was taken thereupon on the 21st of October, 1631, by which it was found that certain lands in Wheaton Aston, then in the respective tenures of Thomas Goldsmith and Margaret Fenyhouse, and out of which chief rents of £1 and £1 10s. respectively were paid to the use of the school, belonged entirely thereto, and their whole issues and profits ought to be drawn by the school. Exceptions were taken to this inquisition and its decree, and the prosecutor having put in his answer, nothing farther was done during the lives of the parties. Greater and more exciting matters soon occupied the public courts and the public mind ; and it was not till 1674 that the suit was revived. On the 6th of May, 1676, final judgment was pronounced, setting aside the inquisition and decree of 1631, and declaring the exceptant's lands discharged

from all payments to the schools, except the 20s. and 30s. before-mentioned.

In the 12th of George I. (1726) another application to Chancery became necessary; for the feoffees had suffered their whole number to die out without any renewal of the trust. It is declared that Thomas Lane was the last survivor of the feoffees, and that since his death there was no legal authority to govern the school; that parties who held the property belonging thereto paid only such rents as they pleased; among whom George Sansome paid but £11 a year for lands worth £20, and Mrs. Susannah Cook paid only £4 2s. for a house and lands worth £7 15s.

The decree in this case directs John Lane, the son and heir of Thomas above-named, to convey and assure the lands, &c. to new trustees, among whom are Sir John Wrottesley, Charles Fowler, of Pendeford, Thomas Lane, of Bentley, Henry Vernon, of Hilton, John Congreve, of Stretton, Rupert Huntbach, of Featherstone, the Dean of Lichfield, and John Moss, Vicar of Brewood.

It appears, though not very clearly, from subsequent proceedings, that Thomas Lane was not the survivor of the old trustees, but Matthew Moreton; and the heir of Matthew conveyed to the feoffees named in the decree instead of John Lane. This decree laid down distinctly the mode of disposing of the profits of the lands after the discharge of the needful outgoings, which has ever since been followed. Two-thirds of the amount goes to the master, and one-third to the usher of the school.

The property of the school, as then found, comprised land and houses scattered over the parish of Brewood; land at Oxley, in the parish of Bushbury; land in the parish of Willenhall; chief rents, issuing out of lands at Wheaton Aston, in the parish of Lapley; and a chief rent, issuing out of land at Hartley Green, in the parish of Gayton; all in the county of Stafford.

In 1800 an addition was made to the school estate by a joint benefaction from Richard Hurd, Bishop of Worcester, and Sir Edward Littleton, of two dwellings and appurtenances, which now together form the residence of the second master and the site of the lower school.



Besides which, the school rooms were repaired and partially re-built, the whole cost of which was defrayed by the bishop and Sir Edward, at an aggregate expense of £600.

It appears that during the incumbency of Dr. Croft (who was appointed head master in 1780) the school had attained a very high standing; and Dr. Croft had purchased some property adjoining to the school premises, in his own name and at his own responsibility—the purchase offering very great advantages to the institution. Dr. Croft resigned before all his arrangements were completed; but his liabilities were assumed by his successor, the Rev. Hamlett Harrison, who appears to have been a gentleman of high acquirements and great energy, and who, in the outset, seems to have secured to himself the cordial goodwill of the trustees, and especially of Sir Edward Littleton and the Bishop of Worcester; who, practically, were the chief managers of the school. The financial part of the business was not, however, immediately settled; for it would seem that Mr. Harrison grew somewhat ambitious and, perhaps, unreasonable in his views, and met each concession of his most kind friends by fresh demands. Ultimately the costs of the whole of the new purchases, and of the various repairs and alterations made by Mr. Harrison, amounting, as above stated, to £600, were most liberally defrayed—the bishop contributing £200, and Sir Edward Littleton munificently supplying the deficient £400.

Richard Hurd, Esq. the nephew of the Bishop of Worcester, by his will, dated February 24, 1811, bequeathed the sum of £1,000 in the Four per Cent. Annuities to the trustees of the school—"the one-half for the augmentation of the master's salary of that school, and the other half to be applied from time to time towards the repairs of the master's house." Mr. Hurd died October 6, 1827.

Since then some alterations have been made in the property at Brewood, by means of exchanges effected between the trustees of the school and some neighbouring proprietors: and the land at Willenhall has been sold, under the provisions of an Act of Parliament passed for that express purpose.

New school rooms, with suitable dormitories, &c. have recently been erected, and the school estates have been improved and rendered more valuable. When the Charity Commissioners made their enquiries (in

September, 1820) the value of the school estates was reported to be £412 per annum—that was exclusive of the residences of the masters, and the value has certainly considerably increased since that period.

---

TRUSTEES.

When the last appointment of trustees was made, the following names were comprised :—

The Marquis of Anglesey.  
The Earl of Dartmouth.  
The Earl Talbot.  
The Earl of Bradford.  
The Earl of Lichfield.  
The Earl of Dudley.  
Viscount Ingestre.  
Lord Bagot.  
Lord Hatherton.  
Lord Wrottesley.  
The Hon. Robert Curzon.  
The Hon. Robert Curzon, jun.  
The Hon. and Very Rev. H. E. J. Howard, D.D. Dean of Lichfield.  
The Hon. and Rev. Arthur Chetwynd Talbot.  
The Hon. William Bagot.  
The Hon. Walter Wrottesley.  
Sir George Chetwynd, Bart.  
Sir Robert Pigot, Bart.  
George Chetwynd, Esq.  
William F. Chetwynd, Esq.  
Thomas William Giffard, Esq.  
Walter Peter Giffard, Esq.  
Edward Monckton, Esq.  
George Monckton, Esq.  
Henry George Vernon, Esq.  
John Cotes, Esq.  
Francis Eld, Esq.

Henry Hordern, Esq.  
 Richard Levett, Esq.  
 The Rev. Richard Levett.  
 The Rev. Alexander Bunn Haden.  
 The Rev. Joseph Salt.

---

#### HEAD MASTERS AND USHERS.

Of the earliest masters of the school nothing is known. The following is the most complete list that can be made :—

##### Head Masters.

Rev. Mr. Hillman, M.A.  
 Rev. William Budworth, M.A. (Died in 1745.)  
 Rev. Roger Bromley, M.A. (Died in 1761.)  
 Rev. Thomas Fielde, M.A.  
 Rev. Timothy Colebatch, M.A. (Died in 1778.)  
 Rev. Mr. Pickering, M.A.  
 Rev. George Croft, D.D. (Elected in 1780.)  
 Rev. Hamlett Harrison, B.D. (Elected in 1792.)  
 Rev. Henry Kempson, M.A. (Elected in 1810.)  
 Rev. Henry Brookland Mason, M.A. (Elected in 1841.)  
 Rev. John Henry Brown, M.A. (Elected in 1850.)

##### Ushers.

Benjamin Blake.		Thomas Careless..
Rev. Matthew Kemsey, A.B.	(Elected in 1801.)	
Arthur Baynham, A.B.	(Elected in 1840.)	
Rev. William Rushton, M.A.	(Elected in 1842.)	

---

The school has always ranked high, and some distinguished scholars and persons who have risen to eminence have been educated at it. The Bagot, Chetwynd, Littleton, Walhouse, Monckton, Vernon, Fowler,

Molineux, and other old families of the county, have had members educated there. The estimation in which the school was held during the last and the early part of the present century is evidenced by the names of some of the pupils given in the following list :—

Richard Hurd, D.D. successively Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry and Worcester.

Sir Edward Littleton, Bart. for many years M.P. for the county.

Lieutenant-General Patrick Tonyn, Colonel of the 48th Regiment.

Thomas Beddoes, M.D. an eminent physician of Bristol, and author of numerous philosophical and medical works.

The Rev. Jeremiah Smith, D.D. late High Master of Manchester School.

The Rev. Alexander Bunn Haden, B.A. Vicar of Wednesbury.

The Rev. Edward Burton, D.D. Regius Professor of Divinity in the University of Oxford.

Edward John Littleton, first Lord Hatherton, and Lord Lieutenant of the County.

George (who succeeded to the Baronetcy, and was for several years Chairman of the County Sessions,) William Fawkner, James Reade, and Henry Chetwynd, sons of Sir George Chetwynd, Bart.

George, Henry, William, and Hugh Monckton, sons of the Hon. Edward Monckton.

Egerton Arden and Ralph Bagot, sons of the Rev. Walter Bagot, of Pipe Hall.

Richard Hurd Lucas, nephew of the Bishop of Worcester.

Thomas Bulkeley Bulkeley-Owen, Esq. of Tedsmore Hall, Salop.

Robert Burton, Esq. of Longnor Hall.

St. John Charlton, Esq. of Wytheford.

Ralph Leeke, Esq. of Longford Hall.

William and Frederick, sons of Sir Charles Oakeley, Bart.

Edward William Smythe Owen, Esq. of Conover.

Thomas Wilson (afterwards France) and his brother John W. R.

Wilson, nephews of Thomas Legh, Esq. of Adlington.

The Rev. William Webb, M.A. Rector of Tixall.

Christopher, son of Sir Robert Wilmot Horton, Bart.



Richard Paul Amphlett, Esq. Fellow of St. Peter's College, Cambridge,  
Barrister-at-Law.

The Rev. Martin Amphlett, A.M. Rector of Churchlench, Worcester  
shire.

Robert Holden, Esq. of Nuttall Temple, Nottinghamshire.

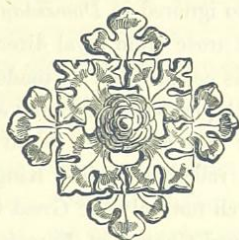
The Rev. Atkinson Alexander Holden, M.A. Vicar of Spondon, Derby-  
shire.

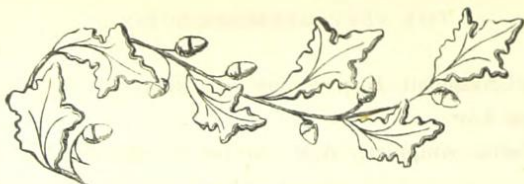
The Rev. W. H. Molineux, M.A. late Fellow of Clare Hall, Cambridge,  
Rector of Elmsett, Suffolk.

George Wightwick, Esq. author of several architectural and other works.

The Rev. Isaac Gregory Smith, M.A. late Fellow of Brasenose College,  
Oxford, Rector of Tedstone-de-la-Mere.

[It is not known whether the late distinguished statesman, the Right Hon. W.  
Huskisson, was among the pupils; but it is certain that he received the first  
elements of education at one of the Brewood schools.]





## THE FOREST.

---

**T**HE Royal Forest of Brewood extended for some miles along what is now the boundary line between Staffordshire and Shropshire; and though it was disafforested by King John, yet, as it long gave the name of Brewood to a wide district, extending into Shropshire, an attempt to clear its half-forgotten history may not be amiss.

There is no mention of this forest in the *Domesday Book*. But it does not appear that any royal forest is registered in that great survey. Cannock Forest, which extended in its extreme length from Castle Bromwich, south-east, to Stafford, north-west, full twenty miles, has no mention in *Domesday*; nor, indeed, have many of the places lying within its boundary. Needwood Forest, which long retained its privileges and celebrity, is also ignored in *Domesday*. Whether this strange omission of kingly rights arose from royal direction, or from servile fear in the commissioners, it is certain that its tendency was to open a wider space for the exercise of the barbarous tyranny of the Norman sovereigns—a tyranny which, more than any other, vexed and irritated the barons, and led to that powerful rebellion against King John, which ultimately wrested from that monarch not only the Great Charter of Liberties, but also the scarcely less valued Charter of Forests.

To understand the situation of the Forest of Brewood it will be necessary to glance the eye over a map; start from the south-east corner of Weston Park, by an irregular and greatly undulating line to the eastern end of Kiddermore Green, keeping on the south of Bishop's Wood and the Blackladies. From Kiddermore Green carry a boundary line south easterly, but still irregular, to Long Birch, and thence south-westerly to Codsall Wood. From thence proceed westerly to somewhere about Donnington; and from thence, northerly, to the starting point at

Weston. Within the imaginary lines thus drawn will be found the Royal Forest.

The reasons for assigning this exact locality will be found on proceeding through these notes ; but care must be taken not to associate with a royal forest the idea of any continued growth of timber trees, or vast umbrageous covers for beasts of chase. The forest, undoubtedly, had its fine coverts,—its wide shade of copse and underwood,—its tangled wilds of thorns and brambles, gorse and broom ;—but it had also its broad spaces of common land,—its free hays,\*—its beaten, though unfenced, roadways,—its occasional residences for rangers, huntsmen, swineherds, and wood cutters,—and provision for their dogs and horses. Probably in all times the exact boundaries were not defined ; there would be a considerable debateable land on the outskirts of the royal demesne, and there would be constant encroachment on both sides.

For though the Norman sovereigns retained a most rigid monopoly of the rights of chase in the forest, yet other rights existed which were attached by custom to adjoining and neighbouring freeholds ; such as pannage, or the right of feeding hogs on the fallen mast of the woods,—estovers, or the right of cutting yearly a certain quantity of timber and firewood,—and other such, not necessary to recapitulate.

But, through all doubts, there occur at intervals, to the painstaking antiquary, some sufficient guides in early charters, both public and private, and in the history of adjoining manors, to fix with reasonable certainty the locality of the Royal Forest of Brewood.

The first authentic and official reference to Brewood Forest is to be found in a charter of King John given at Worcester, April 10, 1200.

It must not be forgotten that the Bishops (then called of Coventry) had the Manor of Brewood, and had unquestionably a seat there. On the 4th of April, 1200, King John was at Brewood ; and on the 10th, as above stated, the following charter was given, dated at Worcester :—

“ The King to Godfrey Fitz-Peter and Hugo de Nevill, greeting.

“ We prohibit you from offering any impediment to the Lord Bishop of Coventry, who is inclosing a park in his Wood of Brewood ; for which park, containing two leagues in circumference, and for building his

\* Of which Pearse Hay and Herriot's Hay are instances within the limits of Brewood Forest.



Castle of Eccleshall, we have given him our licence.—Witness—WILLIAM MARESCALL and others, at Worcester, this 10th day of April, &c. &c.”\*

Hugo de Nevill was at this time Justice of the Forest; and it is clear that this charter was rendered necessary by the close propinquity of the Bishop's “Wood of Brewood” and the forest itself.

Now, the site of the Episcopal Park of Brewood is clearly to be defined at the present day. Though the land is now divided by fences, forming a farm still called the Park, yet the outer line of the fences on the north, west, and south sides, are perfectly straight, and clearly evince the direction taken by either a wall or paling. The north boundary is now the line of Chillington Lower Avenue; the west is Park Lane; and the south is a perfectly straight line parallel to the Avenue, which may even yet be found on the land, running from the end of Park Lane to Chillington Brook, which forms the eastern boundary.

The point on which the Bishop's Park would most closely approach the forest would be its south-west corner, and the extreme eastern extension of the forest is, therefore, placed somewhere about Long Birch.

The next important document we are enabled to quote has direct mention of the forest by name. This is a charter of King John given at Bruges (Bridgnorth), the 13th of March, 1204. By this the king entirely disforests his Forest of “BROWUD,” in respect of all things that to a forest or foresters belong. Therefore the said forest and the free-dwellers therein are disforested and their heirs for ever, and are acquitted as to the king and his heirs, in all matters thereunto belonging.†

This charter, which is witnessed by the Earls of Pembroke, Chester, Warren, and others, does not appear to have been carried into effect, for in 1206, we find the king, immediately after another visit to Brewood, issuing a mandate in the form called “a Close Letter” to the Justiciar of the Forests, from Lexington, which runs thus:—

“The King to Hugo de Nevill, greeting.

“Know that we have given licence to the Bishop of Coventry that he might make a saltorium in his Park of Brewood, against the forest; and,

\* Charter Rolls, 1 John.

+ Charter Rolls, 5 John.



therefore, you are commanded to permit thus much.—Witness ourselves, at Lexington, the 4th day of February, 1206.”\*

Here we have clear evidence of the close proximity of the Episcopal Park to the Royal Forest. The “*saltorium*” was a sort of decoy for deer, and this is licensed to be made “*versus forestam*.”

We have another evidence of the existence of royal territory about this point. In the *Domesday Book*, Count Robert of Stafford is registered as holding one hide in Coven, which Buered held under him. He also held a wood half a mile long and a quarter broad. But this wood (it is added) “*is in the king’s demesne*.”†

Similar evidence as to another part of the boundary is afforded by *Domesday*, in its account of Albrighton, where it is stated that “Here is a wood that will fatten one hundred swine, but at present *it is in the king’s hand*.”‡

There is still later evidence that the disforesting charter remained long a dead letter. Among the forest pleas, in Shropshire, appears a record of a fine of 100 marks paid by the “men who live in Brewood,” (meaning the forest) that they and their heirs might be for ever disforested according to the terms of the king’s charter; and the amount of this fine is to be rateably assessed upon all who had exercised rights within forest limits.|| This is the last known record of the Royal Forest of Brewood.

Perhaps it may be well to state some reasons why the forest is not taken to extend quite up to the Roman Road, which forms the northern boundary of Brewood parish, as the space betwixt what is here assigned as the northern boundary of the forest and the Roman Road, is of little note, and a part of it, still known as Bishop’s Wood, was open common within these last few years.

The Convent of Benedictine Nuns, founded, as generally believed, in A.D. 1195, had for its domain the lands lying on the north side of Brewood parish, between Kiddermore Green and the Roman Road. It is clear these lands could not be parcel of Brewood Forest in A.D. 1209.

\* Close Rolls, 7 John.

† Staffordshire Domesday. Terra Roberti de Statford.

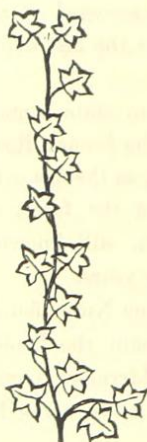
‡ Shropshire Domesday. Terra Normannus Venator.

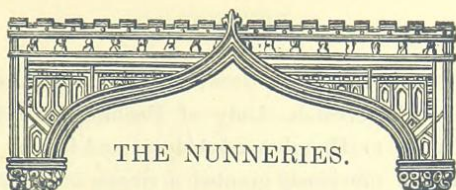
|| Placita Forestæ, Salop, as quoted in Eyton’s Antiquities of Shropshire.

In June 1314, Fulke Penebrugge, Knight, Lord of the Manor of Tong, sold to Walter Langton, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, a plot of wood, called "Stryfwode," in Brewood, for ten pounds, which wood was parcel of the Manor of Tong.\* This indicates, with tolerable accuracy the locality of Bishop's Wood. It is certain that the Bishops of Coventry had no part of their original possessions so far westerly; and it is natural and consistent that on the change of proprietorship, the ancient Stryfwode should be called the Bishop's Wood.

There is one other incident which must be carefully noticed. If the boundaries here assigned to the Royal Forest of Brewood be correct, then the Manor of Chillington must be entirely comprised within the Forest. If this were so, there would no longer be a difficulty in accounting for the omission of Chillington from *Domesday*; for, as was observed in the outset, not only the Royal Forests, but many manors within them, are entirely omitted,—of which Cannock itself is a striking example.

\* Eyton's Antiquities of Shropshire.





## THE NUNNERIES.

**T**HERE were two religious houses called of Brewood ; and both were founded either late in the twelfth or early in the thirteenth century.

The one was a Benedictine Priory, within the parish : the other a Cistercian Priory, within the forest. Hence is met with occasional, but continual, mention for upwards of three centuries, of the Black Nuns and White Nuns of Brewood ; with this remarkable distinction that the Black Nuns of Brewood were in the county of Stafford, and the White Nuns of Brewood were in the county of Salop. Their respective localities are well known even now in the nineteenth century : each is a farm house, and they are respectively called Blackladies and Whiteladies.

Neither foundation was large nor important ; and there exists no accurate information as to the date of their origin, or the names of their founders. Occasional information is gleaned from private and public charters ; but the only authentic account of their endowments is be found at the time of their dissolution. Even Dugdale's great work has no mention of either Black or White Nuns of Brewood. To speak first of the latter.

It has been stated by several authorities\* that the Cistercian Monastery was founded by Hubert Walter, in 1195. This was not so ; though it is highly probable that Hubert Walter was a patron of the house. Hubert was Archbishop of Canterbury, Chancellor, and Justiciar, and during Cœur de Lion's absence in Palestine, endowed with much of the power of a viceroy. It is not surprising that he should make free with the Royal Forest demesne to enrich a Cistercian Priory ; for he was ever a warm friend of that order. But there is indisputable

\* Wilkes's *Agri Staffordiensis* Icon, in Shaw. Dukes's *Antiquities of Shropshire*. Harwood's *Erdeswick, cum multis aliis*.



evidence that the Cistercians of Brewood had an earlier existence. In 1186 Emma de Pulverbatch, Lady of Beobridge, in the county of Salop, granted lands to Haughmond Abbey; and in her charter\* it is recited that she had previously granted a virgate of land, in Beobridge, to the White Nuns of Brewood; consequently a date is obtained for the foundation prior to A.D. 1186. Hubert Walter was not translated to Canterbury until 1193.

In 1254 a fine was levied between Agnes, Prioress of Brewood, and Philip de Beckbury. Among other matters, Philip undertook, for himself and his heirs, to pay one mark yearly out of two mills, at Beckbury, to the prioress and her successors.†

In 1256 Alditha, Prioress of Brewood, enfeoffed Henry Fitz Robert, of Bridgnorth, with one moiety of a weir, on the Severn, called With-lakeswere, which had been granted to the White Nuns of Brewood by King John,‡ reserving an annual rent of five shillings. At a somewhat later period Cecilia, then Prioress of Brewood, granted the remaining moiety at a similar rent||

Alditha, Prioress, also sued Roger de Beaumeys, Lord of Donnington, in 1256, for estovers in Donnington Wood. The suit appears to have been compromised.

In 1288 the Prioress of St. Leonard's, in Brewood, recovered from William de Rudge a right of common pasture, annexed to her free tenement in Rudge (Salop.)§ William having appealed from this decision, it was again tried at Shrewsbury in 1292, and the Prioress was again successful.¶

In 1304 an inquisition *ad quod damnum* was held at Shrewsbury, to ascertain if any injury would arise to the King (Edward I.) if John de Beaumeys granted ten acres of land and ten acres of wood to the White Nuns of Brewood; \*\* and a similar enquiry was held in 1315, to ascertain if the king would suffer wrong by Hugh de Beaumeys granting thirty acres to the same nuns.†† The De Beaumeys' were Lords of Tong; and in both cases the jurors reported in favour of the grants.

\* Haughmond Chartulary. + *Pedes Finium*, 38 Hen. III. † *Placita*, 40 Hen. III.

|| Chartulary of Shrewsbury Abbey. § *Originalia*.

¶ *Assize Rolls*, Salop, 20 Edward I. \*\* *Inquisitions*, 32 Edward I.

++ *Inquisitions*, 9 Edward II.

In 1310 the Prioress of the White Nuns of Brewood made a fine of twenty shillings for lands in Bolde, in the county of Salop.\*

In 1315 the prioress made a fine for the sum of ten pounds, which had been appropriated yearly from the Church of "Tibischulf."†

In 1319, August 14, Fulk de Penbrugge, then Lord of Tong, had licence to exchange ten acres in Tong with the prioress for ten other acres in the same manor.‡

A letter is extant of Roger de Northbrook, who was Bishop of Lichfield from 1322 to 1360, directing search to be made for Elizabeth la Zouche and Alice de Kallerhale, two of the White Nuns of Brewood, who had absconded from the Monastery.||

No other evidences have been met with relating to the White Nuns of Brewood. The exact condition of their possessions when Henry the Eighth laid violent hands on them will be found in the following extract from the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* :—

The Monastery of White Nuns in Brewood.—Dame Margaret is the Prioress there.

The mansion and domain lands, meadows, pastures, and lands for use of husbandry, in the hands of the Prioress, are worth yearly	vi. l. xiiis. ivd.
Rents from Colmerton, in the county of Nottingham .....	xls.
Rents in Haughton, Brinsford, and Bromhall, in the county of Stafford .....	xivs. viiidd.
And rents from Highley, Chetwalle, Rugge, Bold, Sutton, Rewton, Ercall, Beryton, Salop, Bridgnorth, Engwarden, Tedstyll, Beckbury, Humfreston, and other places .....	viii li.

#### Spiritualia.

The Rectory of Montford, in the county of Salop, yearly .....	viii li.
The Rectory of Tibbischulf, in the county of Derby, yearly .....	vi. vis. viiidd.
Annual pension issuing from Bold, near Aston Botterel .....	vis. viiidd.
Total of the annual value of the Monastery aforesaid .....	xxli. xviii d.

#### Reprisals.

Reserved rents payable to the Lord of Donnington and Master Savage, including cost of one pound of pepper ....	xxs.
--	------

\* Originalia. + Originalia. † Patent Rolls, 13 Edward II. || Lichfield Registers.

Annual fees to divers officers, viz:—

Thomas Giffard, Esq. Seneschal .....	xvis. viiid.
Robert Sherbrook, Bailiff of Colmerton.. ..	iiis. ivd.
Thomas Bewker, Bailiff of lands in Stafford and Salop	xiiis. ivd.
Thomas Hawkins, Receiver General of the aforesaid lands .....	ivli.
Together.....	vl. xiiis. ivd.
Salary to one Chaplain, to celebrate Divine rites at the Monastery aforesaid for the souls of the founders .....	vli.
Annual payment to the Cathedral Church of Lichfield, for the Church of Tibbischulf .....	xxs.
To the Prior of St. Cuthlac's in Hereford, for the Church of Mont- ford .....	xs.
Procurations, &c. at triennial visitations for the Churches aforesaid	viis. ivd.
Total of Reprisals .....	xiiil. xs. viiid.
Remaining clear to the Monastery .....	xviii. xs. viiid.

This net income of £17 10s. 8d. became the possession of Sir John Giffard of Chillington. The Nunnery itself was converted to a dwelling, and was generally occupied by some member of the Chillington family. The noble woods which surrounded the Nunnery—fragments of the Royal Forest—enabled John Giffard, about A.D. 1580, to build a house for concealment of the ministers of a banished faith in its dim recesses; and this place achieved a just and brilliant fame as BOSCOBEL.

The domain, which is still extra-parochial, passed from the hands of the Giffards to a family of Cottons; from whom it descended by inter-marriage to one of the Fitzherberts, of Swinnerton. It is now the property of the Evans's of Darley, county of Derby.

Of the Black or Benedictine Nunnery our information is even more meagre than that which refers to their Cistercian sisters. The same authorities which make Hubert Walter the founder of the White Ladies, make Isabella Launder the founder of the Black Ladies. How this extraordinary error was first set on foot it would be bootless now to enquire; but the real fact about Isabella Launder is, that she was Prioress at the time of the dissolution, and consequently had as little to do with its founding as she had with the erection of Stonehenge.

It is not a strained nor improbable suggestion that the Nunnery owed its origin to the Bishops of Lichfield; and the site of the house might have been a portion of the Episcopal Manor of Brewood. Many of the



after grants were evidently merely gifts when some member of a wealthy family joined the sisterhood ; and the house had no direct or important patronage, except that of the diocesan. But it is certain that the house had existence as early as the reign of Henry II. who died in 1189 ; for King John, by a charter dated at Heywood on the 15th of November, 1200, gave to the Church of St. Mary, in Brewood, and the nuns there, two virgates and a half of land at Brome, in the county of Stafford, in exchange for certain lands at “ Gaeleg” (quere Gailey?) which had heretofore been given to the same church by his father, King Henry.\*

Three years afterwards, the Prioress of the Black Nuns of Brewood had a plea with Master Herbert, the Parson of Clent, respecting the right of presentation to the Church of Brome.†

In 1212 King John increased his grant in Brome, by Royal Charter ; ‡ and in 1225 Sibil de Broc granted Chetton or Chedinton Mill in the county of Salop, worth two marks yearly, to the Black Nuns of Brewood.||

In 1247 a fine was levied at Westminster between the Abbot of Buildwas and Allan la Zouche, then Lord of Tong. The abbot (among other things) gave up his right in a virgate of land, which he and his convent had by grant of the Black Nuns of Brewood.§

The *Valor Ecclesiasticus*¶ supplies the following details of the possessions of the Monastery immediately prior to the Dissolution of Religious Houses :—

The Priory of Black Nuns at Brewood.—Dame Isabella Lauder is the Prioress there.

And the mansion and domain lands are worth yearly .....	vil. xvs.
And there are rents from the Vill of Brome** in the county of Stafford .....	iiil.
And in Albrighton there issues free alms from the lands of William Woodhouse .....	xiiid.

\* Charter Rolls, 2 John. + Placita, 5 John. ‡ Charter Rolls, 14 John.

|| Hundred Rolls. § Pedes Finium, 31 Henry III.

¶ It may be fitly mentioned here that the Commissioners who took the valuation of the Church lands in this part of the Diocese of Lichfield were John Talbot, Knight; John Giffard, Knight; Walter Wrottesley, Esquire; and John Grosvenour, Gentleman.

\*\* Brome (*Broom*) is a small parish adjoining Clent, formerly a detached part of the county of Stafford, but now included in Worcestershire.

And the same from lands of John Giffard, Knight, in Chillington ..	iis. vid.
And from lands of Vernon in Tong.....	iis.
And from lands of Roger Corbet in Dawley, Salop .....	iis.
And from lands of Blakemore in Bradley .....	xiid.
And from one tenement in Horsebrook .....	xvis.
And from a cottage in Kidderminster, in the Diocese of Worcester..	iis.
The total is ..... xil. and xviiiid.	

At the dissolution the possessions of the Black Nuns of Brewood were given to Sir John Giffard, and the house became a residence for a branch of his family; a branch which, for several generations, was recognized as Giffard of Blackladies, and only ceased on succeeding to Chillington, on the failure of the elder line in 1718.

During the troublous years between 1640 and 1660 Blackladies seems to have escaped the confiscation which swallowed up Chillington; and some part of the family maintained possession.

One interesting memorial of Blackladies is found at a still later period. It appears that Blackladies, as well as Whiteladies, claimed to be extra-parochial, and for a considerable time maintained its privileges. But after the accession of Peter Giffard of Blackladies to Chillington, in 1718, the parochial authorities of Brewood brought the matter to issue by a trial at Stafford: and succeeded in establishing the jurisdiction of Brewood over Blackladies.

A draft of a Brief, in connection with this trial, is still preserved, and the points relied upon were:—1st. That Blackladies then actually did maintain its own poor apart from Brewood; and at that very time a family named Yates, and another named Onions, being then within the precincts of Blackladies, were maintained at the sole cost of the defendant, Peter Giffard.

2nd. That there was a church at Blackladies, for the use of residents there; which was kept and maintained entirely by the defendant.

3rd. That all the ancient messuages in Brewood had seats or pews in the Parish Church; but there were none belonging to Blackladies nor to any inhabitant there.

4th. That in the ancient and late perambulations of the boundaries of Brewood, the churchwardens, minister, and inhabitants, never included Blackladies.

5th. That the justices had always directed their warrants to the High Constable of the Hundred of Cuttlestone, when any payment was to be collected, or warrant executed, at Blackladies; and that no officer of Brewwood ever exercised his office at Blackladies.

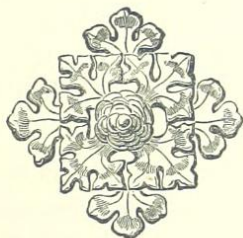
6th. That in the late wars the defendant's ancestor, for his loyalty, was sequestered; his house was plundered and made a garrison of, and the writings of his estates burned by the soldiers; which is the reason he has no ancient deeds or settlements of Blackladies.

7th. That Blackladies being always taken to be out of Brewwood, or any other parish, was ordered to pay taxes with Church Eaton parish.

The facts stated above could not have been fully substantiated at the trial, or the decision must have been in favour of the independence of Blackladies. It may be noted here, that the names of the witnesses who were to be called, were Paulton, Reynolds, Yates, Harper, and Lees; names of parties still found resident in or near to Blackladies.

The ancient Chapel of the Nunnery was preserved, and a priest, who resided in a portion of the mansion, celebrated the usual services of the Church there, until the new Roman Catholic Church was built at Brewwood, in 1840.

The house is now a farm house, still remarkable for its size and manorial appearance; and the ancient demesne forms a large farm around the building. It is still an integral portion of the Chillington estate.







## CHILLINGTON.

---

**T**HE most important manor within the parish of Brewood, after the Episcopal Manor, was, unquestionably, Chillington. It has now (A.D. 1857) absorbed into itself the whole of the Episcopal Manor and the broad lands thereunto belonging. The connection between the Bishops of Lichfield and Brewood, which had lasted for eleven centuries, was terminated in 1852, when Mr. Giffard, who held their possessions under a lease, purchased the reversionary interest from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

The omission of Chillington from the *Domesday Book* has been before adverted to.\* The suggestion that Chillington formed part of the possessions of William Corbucion, who is said briefly to hold land "in Sibeford," has generally been received; as also that Corbucion was either of Saxon race, or, at least, was settled in Staffordshire and Warwickshire before the Norman Conquest. But a better reason for omitting Chillington from the Conqueror's great register is, that it lay within the bounds of the Royal Forest of Brewood. The sufficiency of this reason is amply proved by many parallel cases, and need not be pursued further.

Erdeswicke says†—"I take it that at the time of the Conquest Chillington was the inheritance of Willielmus filius Corbution, who held the same of the bishop; for after, about the time of King Stephen, Peter Corbesone gave the same (as I take it) in frank marriage with Margaret, his sister,‡ to Peter Giffard."

\* Pp. 5, 54.

+ Harwood's Erdeswicke, p. 158.

‡ This affords a striking instance of Erdeswicke's uncertainty; for in another part of his book (Harwood's Erdeswicke, p. 125,) under Walton, he says it was "the inheritance of Avicia de Walton, who was married to Peter Giffard, &c." The lady's name was, unquestionably, Avicia or Haweis; and she brought her husband both Chillington and Walton.

Erdeswicke is much to be relied on for his stated facts, but it is a constant source of regret that he never quotes authorities. A series of charters, still preserved, afford excellent unbroken evidence of the possession of Chillington by the Giffards in an uninterrupted descent from the Peter mentioned by Erdeswicke; but nothing has been found to illustrate the ownership previous to A.D. 1180, when Peter Giffard certainly possessed it.

Camden says—"The next remarkable place in these parts is Chillington, the beautiful house and manor of the ancient and famous family of the Giffards; which in the time of Henry the Second Peter Corbuchin gave to Peter Giffard, to whom also Richard Strongbow, the conqueror of Ireland, gave Tachmelin and other places in Ireland."

It is not consistent with the object of these slight notices of Brewood to give a full and elaborate pedigree of the twice-ennobled family of Giffard. Deeply interesting as the whole subject would inevitably be, it will only be so far touched as to afford a continued history of Chillington itself; and even that branch of it does not afford much excitement to the student of genealogy, as there is little to record except that the estate held by the family in the twelfth century has been held by the family ever since in direct succession, and is held by the family to this day.

Every opportunity for verifying the family history has been afforded by the inspection and perusal of the well-preserved Chillington charters—a series of irrefragable documents which identify the successive Lords of Chillington for six hundred years with a distinctness sufficient for a Court of Law or Equity. In stating briefly the Chillington pedigree the page will not be loaded with constant references to these valuable and interesting documents; but the reader may safely assume that every assertion of date, name, or place that has no reference has been fully guaranteed by the evidence of contemporary documents. A few of these will be more distinctly referred to in detail, but generally it will be deemed sufficient to record the proofs without comment.

Peter Giffard—the first of Chillington—was a cadet of the Gloucestershire branch of that celebrated family, of which several members accompanied the Conqueror in his invasion of England, and received

their rewards in numerous rich manors of the vanquished.\* As recorded by Erdeswicke and Camden, Peter Giffard accompanied his kinsman, Strongbow† Earl of Pembroke, in the Irish campaign of 1172, and received his reward, as before stated, in the conquered country. The precise period of his marriage with the fair lady of Chillington and Walton is not known, and can never now be discovered; but we learn that as early as A.D. 1226, Peter Giffard and Avicia, his wife, had a plea with William Fitz Syride about a free tenement in Walton.‡ And a charter without date, but clearly referable to this same period or a little later, shews a grant from Alice de Harecourt of certain rights and privileges in Walton to the same Peter and Avicia.

In the well-known and continually-quoted inquisition touching lands held of the Crown in capite, in the 19th and 24th years of Henry III. —generally referred to as the *TESTA DE NEVILL*—we find Peter Giffard holding eight knight's fees in Walton, and half a fee in Engleton|| of the Bishop of Chester. In this important and authentic record, as in *Domesday*, no mention of Chillington is found; and it may fairly be assumed that at this early period Walton was not only the more important lordship but the family residence.

According to an elaborate pedigree preserved at Chillington, and fully vouched by many successive heraldic visitations, Peter, the first Giffard of Chillington, was succeeded by a son of his own name, who married a Margaret de Chuddeley. The charters of the period are generally undated, and it is not easy to distinguish between the two Peters immediately succeeding each other. There is a charter of Peter, Lord of Chillington, giving land to Galfrid, clerk of Hyde, for which Galfrid was to pay three fowls at Christmas in lieu of all rents and services. Another charter of Peter, Lord of Chillington, gives four acres and a

\* The Giffards trace their ancestors, however, three generations prior to the Conquest; and they were ennobled before coming to England.

† Richard de Clare, second Earl of Pembroke, is best known to history by this *nom de guerre*.

‡ Placita, 10 Hen. III.

|| Testa de Nevill, Staffordshire.



half of land to Henry de Sutton, chaplain, at eleven silver pence yearly rent. It is probable that this Peter the second died about the year 1286. Among the witnesses to charters of Peter may be found Robert de Somerford, William de Hyde, Ralph de Broomhall, &c.

Peter was succeeded by his son John, who was Lord of Chillington from 1286 to 1314. He married Ada or Avelina, daughter of Hugh Courtenay, Baron of Oakhampton. Though succeeded by a son of his own name, there is distinct evidence of his death in 1314. In this year he was one of the witnesses to the deed by which Fulke de Penbrugge conceded "Stryfwoode" to the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield;\* and he is therein especially described as third Lord of Chillington. In the same year we have a charter of "Ada, late wife of John Giffard of Chillington, Knight." There are other charters of the same Ada, as a widow, in 1316, 1319, and 1326. The first John Giffard is described sometimes as of Walton and sometimes as of Chillington.

John, son of John, succeeded as Lord of Chillington, and married the daughter and heiress of Stafford of Marston—a branch of the great baronial family of Stafford. We have numerous charters of Sir John Giffard, extending from 1316 to 1366; so that he must have retained his Lordship of Chillington for half a century. Nor was this long life an undistinguished one; for we find that in 1315 he was appointed to levy in Staffordshire the aid of one-twentieth of all goods and chattels which had been granted by the Parliament held in London, in January, to King Edward II. for his war against the Scotch.† The barons, who were then confederated against the king, had much influence in Staffordshire and Shropshire; and we find Sir John Giffard certifying his inability to levy the aid in the former county. In 1316 the Parliament held at Lincoln granted to the king the unusual grant of a man, fully armed and accoutred, from every town and vill in the kingdom. Sir John Giffard was appointed Commissioner of Array for raising this force in Staffordshire.‡ In 1319 John Giffard received a charter of free warren in his Manors of Chillington and Walton, and other places in the

\* Ante, p. 54.

+ Parliamentary Rolls, 8 Edward II.

‡ Parliamentary Rolls, 9 Edward II.

county of Stafford.\* In 1322 he was again a Commissioner of Array, and in the same year was returned, together with Philip de Somerville, as Member, for Staffordshire, of the Parliament summoned to meet at York. Of his actual attendance there we have evidence in the *Writ de Expensis*. He was allowed £4 12s. being at the rate of four shillings a day for fifteen days' attendance, and for eight days spent in going and returning.† In 1324 John Giffard was again elected to the Parliament held at Westminster. His colleague on this occasion was Richard de Hampton.‡

In reading the public history of this period it is necessary to distinguish between the two Sir Johns who appear on its pages. Sir John Giffard of Brimsfield, the representative of the elder branch of the family, played a conspicuous part in the events of the realm; but he is generally found in close alliance with the confederated barons; while Sir John of Chillington is always engaged in the direct service of the king.

Sir John Giffard must have died in 1366, as in a charter of the latter part of that year Edmund Giffard occurs as Lord of Chillington; and in 1368 Edmund Giffard made a fine for part of the manor of Walton with John Sprenchose and his wife. Again, in 1374, Edmund granted to Richard de Pulesdan, Matilda, his wife, and John and Richard, their sons, lands in Gunston, at an annual rent of four shillings. Other charters of the same Edmund occur at various periods between 1366 and 1378, and it is presumed that he died in the latter year, or in 1379. He married a daughter of Sir Thomas Venables, Baron of Kinderton, Cheshire, and left a son John, who succeeded him.

John Giffard occurs as Lord of Chillington in 1380, 1387, and 1394; but we obtain no clue at all as to his marriage or death.

Thomas, his son, succeeded to the Lordship; and we learn from the Chillington pedigree, and from many heraldic visitations of Staffordshire, that he married Jocose or Joyce, the daughter and heiress of — Fraunceys of Whiston, near Penkridge. Of Thomas himself there

\* Charter Rolls, 12 Edward II.

+ Parliamentary Rolls, 15 Edward II.

‡ Parliamentary Rolls, 17 Edward II.

is little information, but he was Sheriff of Staffordshire in the twelfth year of the reign of Henry IV. (A.D. 1411.) His death must have occurred before 1415, because we have evidence in the Chillington charters that Jocosa, Lady of Chillington, and Robert Giffard, son and heir of Thomas Giffard and the said Joyce, granted a messuage and three virgates of land in Walton, to Thomas Shelley of Walton. This charter is executed at Chillington, on the Monday next after the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in the third year of the reign of Henry V. (1415.) From the Chillington pedigree it appears that Robert Giffard married, first, Hubella Blount, who died without surviving children; and, second, Cassandra, the daughter of Thomas Humphreston.

In the sixth year of King Edward IV. (1466) this Robert granted to Robert Bill a lease of premises in Walton for sixty years, at an annual rent of five marks fourteen shillings and sixpence. Other charters of Robert shew him surviving in 1470 and 1484, and he is stated in the Chillington pedigree to have died in 1486. By this account he must have held the Lordship upwards of seventy years. But over the date of Robert's death some doubt extends. In the fourth year of Henry the Seventh, Henry Parcar and Margaret, his wife, granted a pasture in Chillington, called Jay Ridding, to John Giffard, son and heir of Robert Giffard. The charter is dated at Chillington, the 23rd day of November, 1489. In 1495, on the feast of St. Michael the Archangel, William, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, grants to John Giffard and Roger Fowke lands and tenements in the vill of Hatton. In these last-named deeds John Giffard is not styled of Chillington, and they might be executed in his father's lifetime.

But in 1507 we obtain indubitable evidence of the death of Robert, for in that year Richard Lane, of Hyde, grants to Cassandra Giffard, Lady of Chillington, and John Giffard, Esquire, her son, certain lands at Longeley(Langley); and, by a separate charter, William Wallhouse grants land at the same place to the same parties. Both charters are dated at Chillington on the 18th of February. The name of Cassandra, as Lady of Chillington, again occurs in 1511, and the name of John, son and heir of Robert, but not called of Chillington, in 1513.



Now, if Joyce was not widowed until 1507, the date of her first known charter, Robert, her husband, must have been Lord of Chillington for upwards of ninety years. But if Robert died, according to the pedigree, in 1486, then his son John, who died, as his monument shews, in 1556, must have held the lordship for seventy years. This much is certain, that two Lords of Chillington had a tenure of one hundred and forty years, however that period was divided.

From this period the succession of the Giffards of Chillington is verified by public registers and existing monuments, and it will not be necessary in concluding this sketch to give more than dates and names.

John Giffard was Sheriff of Staffordshire in 1509 and 1518. In 1513 one of the crests now borne by the family—the tiger's head—was granted to him. He was knighted before 1523, when he was again sheriff; and in the same year the second crest of the demi-archer was granted. No trace whatever can now be found in the College of Arms of the reason of the two grants of crests, remarkable and recent as they are.

Sir John Giffard was again sheriff in 1526, 1531, and 1542. He married, first, Joanna, daughter of Sir Thomas Hoorde, of Bridgnorth, by whom he had two daughters;\* and, second, Elizabeth, daughter of Greysley, Greslee, or Gresley, of Colton, in the county of Stafford, by whom he had two sons—Thomas, who succeeded, and William, who achieved the remarkable distinction of becoming Archbishop of Rheims and a duke and peer of France;—and a daughter, who was married to Sir John Talbot, of Grafton.

To this Sir John Giffard was granted, in 1539, the property of the dissolved Monasteries of Black and White Nuns of Brewood, and in 1541 he purchased from the Crown the manor of Onn† and other church lands for £959 5s. Part of this purchase, being lands at Normecote, was re-sold by Sir John Giffard to Ralph Bold in 1544. Sir John died November 13th, 1556.‡

Sir Thomas Giffard, tenth Lord of Chillington, had been knighted in his father's lifetime, and had twice served the office of sheriff, viz. in

\* By an oversight (ante, p. 15), Joanna is stated to have been the mother of the Archbishop of Rheims.

† Ante, pp. 58. 60.

‡ Ante, p. 15.

1530 and 1554. For the three last years of the lifetime of Sir John, Sir Thomas represented his native county in Parliament. In 1553 or 1554 it is supposed that Dr. Knightley gave to Sir Thomas the property for the endowment of Brewood School.\* Sir Thomas married, first, Dorothy, daughter and co-heiress of Sir John Montgomery, of Caverswall, Knight;† by whom he had an only daughter, who was heiress of her mother. He married, second, Ursula, daughter of Sir Robert Throckmorton, of Coughton, in the county of Warwick: their children were John, successor of Thomas in the Lordship of Chillington, with two other sons and five daughters. Sir Thomas died May 27th, 1560;‡ his widow survived him above twenty years.||

John Giffard, eleventh Lord of Chillington, was Member of Parliament for Lichfield in 1553, and Sheriff of the county in 1573. In 1576 he had the distinguished honour of entertaining Queen Elizabeth in one of her royal progresses at his mansion of Chillington. Such particulars as are known of this visit will be found under the General Outline (ante, p. 8.) He married Joyce, daughter of James Leveson of Lilleshall, and by her had eight sons and two daughters. He died in 1613. His monument is in Brewood Church; the date of his death has never been inserted;§ but we learn from the Register that he was buried on the 24th of August.¶

John was succeeded by his eldest son, Walter, who married Philippa, daughter of Henry White, of Southwarnborough, in the county of Southampton, and died the 27th of April, 1632.\*\* His wife bore to him seven sons and four daughters.†† He could not at the period of his death have foreseen the strange changes of fortune which awaited his immediate

\* Ante, p. 41.

+ Sir Thomas Giffard is frequently called of Caverswall Castle by contemporaries.

‡ Ante, p. 15.

|| Vide Register, p. 35.

§ Ante, p. 16.

¶ Vide Register, p. 35.

\*\* Ante, p. 16.

†† One of his direct descendants deserves a brief notice even here:—Bonaventure Giffard, who was titular Bishop of Madaura and Vicar Apostolic of the London District. He was son of Andrew, the youngest son of Walter, who had married a Leveson, of Wolverhampton. His learning, piety, and wide benevolence, formed the perfect adornment of a true Christian character. He died in 1733.

descendants, under the influence of that fearful tempest of terror and desolation which frightened our isle from its propriety between 1640 and 1660.

It was reserved to Peter, thirteenth Lord of Chillington, to suffer those strange vicissitudes which exhibit him as one day chief of the broad ancestral domains, and the next a captive without an acre of land or a shilling of revenue. Some details of the startling exigencies of his varied career are found in the General Outline;\* and it would not be in good taste to enlarge upon them here. It is sufficient to say that he outlived his troubles, and that the Revolution which restored Monarchy to England restored Chillington to the Giffards. Peter Giffard is taken to have died June 25th, 1663, but there is no evidence to shew that he was buried in the tomb of his fathers at Brewood. He married Frances, the daughter of Walter Fowler, of St. Thomas, by whom he had seven sons and seven daughters. To his second son, John, Peter Giffard had given the Blackladies, as his portion, on his marriage with Catherine, the daughter of Richard Hawkins, of Nash Court, in the county of Kent, Esq. It will be necessary to keep this in mind, as the descendants of this John of Blackladies are the present Giffards of Chillington. The youngest son of Peter Giffard, Charles, was the brave soldier, who, having fought for his Sovereign at Worcester, in 1651, and after Boscobel had been suggested by the Earl of Derby as the King's hiding place, was enabled to guide him thither in safety through the perilous night of the 3rd of September, 1651.

It has been seen in the General Outline† that Peter Giffard was allowed, after the confiscation of his property, to regain his personal liberty for a fine of one hundred pounds, and to derive some doubtful pecuniary advantage from the income of his estates. It appears, also,‡ that Mrs. Giffard and some of her younger children pleaded before the Sequestration Commissioners some claims to dower and settlement which were at least partially allowed. Chillington Hall had been so seriously injured during the Civil War, that it was not made a residence for any part of the family until long after the Restoration. Even after the return of Charles II. to the throne, in 1660, the Giffards did not obtain repossession of their ancestral acres completely; and it was not until 1663, that

\* Ante, pp. 9, 16.

+ Ante, p. 9.

‡ Chillington MSS.



a Royal Grant removed all obstacles. Immediately on obtaining this boon, Peter Giffard, then upwards of ninety years of age, assigned the whole of his estates to his son Walter, reserving only a limited maintenance to himself; and even this limited maintenance he could have enjoyed but a few months, as his death took place the same year as above stated.

Walter Giffard, eldest son and successor of Peter, married Anne, daughter of Sir Thomas Holte, of Aston, in the county of Warwick, Baronet, and by her had three sons, one of whom, John, succeeded his father at Chillington, and three daughters. Walter, who survived his lady, had for his second wife, Anne, daughter of Thomas Huggerford, of Solihull, in the county of Warwick, Esq.; but there was no issue of this marriage. Walter Giffard appears to have taken up his residence in Normandy during the English troubles, and did not return after the Restoration; for on the occasion of his grandson's marriage, in 1688, it appears that Walter was then resident at La Flèche, and as he is said to have died in that same year, it is tolerably certain that he died there, being then seventy-seven years of age.

John, eldest son of Walter, succeeded to Chillington. He was born in 1638, and married Frances, daughter of William Fitzherbert, of Swinnerton, in the county of Stafford, Esq. He died in March, 1695, and his lady in March, 1711. They are both buried at Brewood.\*

John was succeeded at Chillington by his only surviving child, Thomas, who married Mary, daughter of John Thimelby, of Irnham, in the county of Lincoln, Esq. but had no descendants. He died in October, 1718, and was buried at Brewood.\* His widow survived him thirty-five years; and dying at Long Birch, was also buried at Brewood.†

It is necessary now to revert to John Giffard, of Blackladies, who is stated above to have married a daughter of Hawkins, of Nash Court, in the county of Kent. Two sons were born of this marriage, John, who succeeded his father at Blackladies, and Francis, who died unmarried. John, the first of Blackladies, was living in 1654, as his name then occurs in a lease; but the time or place of his death is not accurately known.

\* Register, p. 37.

+ Ante, p. 21. Register, p. 38.

John, second Lord of Blackladies, was married to Catherine, the daughter of John Taylor, of Fockbury, in the county of Worcester, Esq. and of this marriage proceeded three sons and three daughters. The eldest son, Peter, succeeded to Blackladies; the second son, John, married the heiress of Comberford Brooke, of Madeley, in the county of Salop, Esq. and settled there; the third son, Walter, died unmarried. John Giffard died in 1710, and is buried at Brewood.\* His lady survived him, and was executrix of his will.

Peter, eldest son of John, succeeded to Blackladies on the death of his father; and on the death of Thomas Giffard, of Chillington, in 1718, childless, he became SEVENTEENTH LORD OF CHILLINGTON.

Peter Giffard, of Chillington and Blackladies, was thrice married. By his third wife, Helena, daughter and heiress of Robert Roberts, of Plas Uchâ,† in the county of Flint, Esq. he had, besides other children, Thomas, who succeeded him. Peter died June 30th, 1746, and is buried at Brewood.‡

Thomas, eighteenth Lord of Chillington, was also thrice married; and by his second wife, Barbara, daughter, of Sir Robert Throckmorton, of Coughton, in the county of Warwick, Baronet, had issue Thomas, his successor, who married the Lady Charlotte, daughter of William second Viscount Courtenay and, *de jure*, sixteenth Earl of Devon. A large family proceeded from this union, the first born of whom is Thomas William, the PRESENT AND TWENTIETH LORD OF CHILLINGTON.

“ Genus immortale manet, multosque per annos  
Stat fortuna domûs, et avi numerantur avorum.”—VIRG. *Georg.* iv.

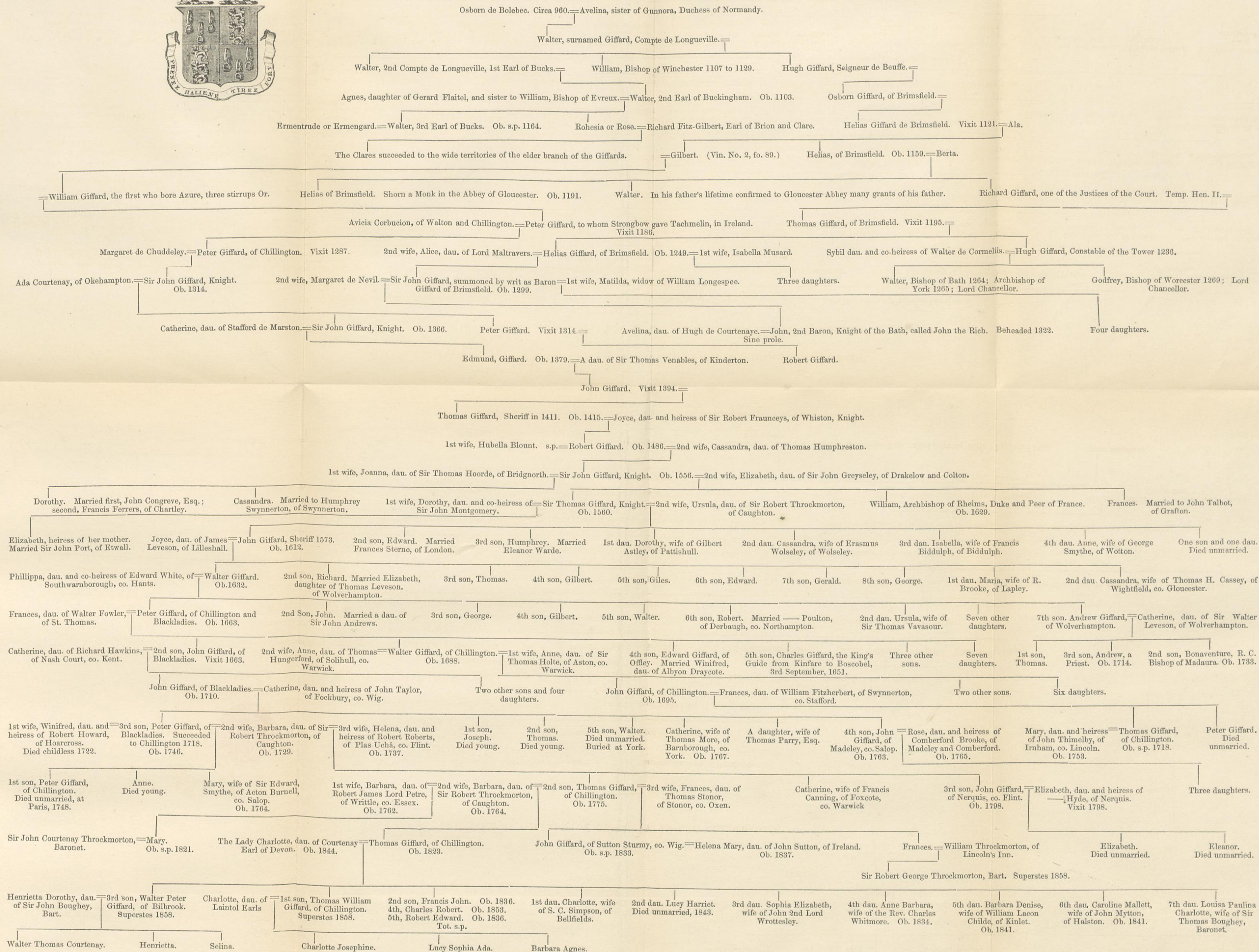
\* Register, p. 37.

† The Plas Uchâ estate is still the possession of the Chillington family.

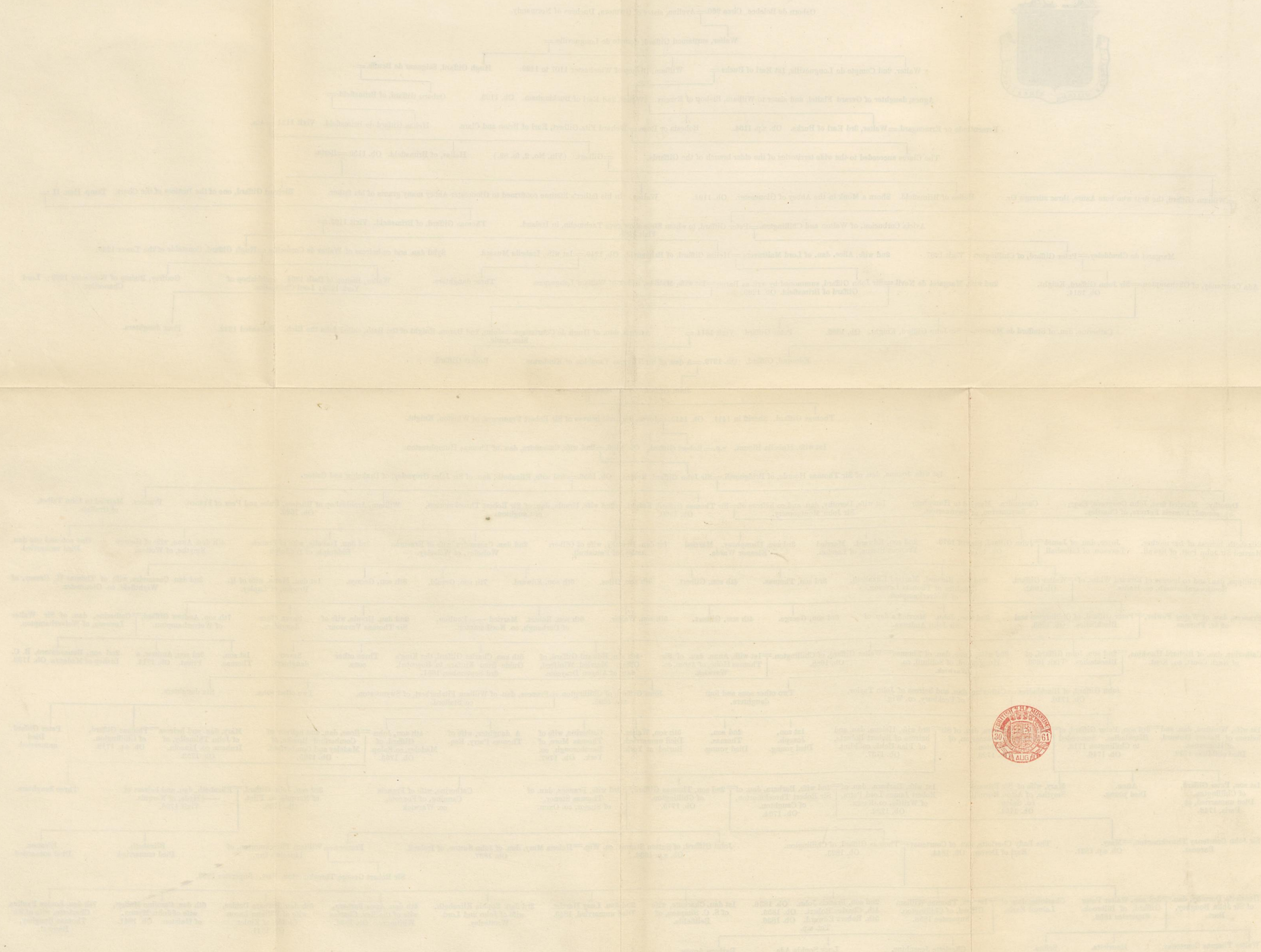
‡ Register, p. 38.



PEDIGREE OF GIFFARD, OF CHILLINGTON AND BLACKLADIES.











## BROMHALL.

---

It was always understood that if the Rev. Stebbing Shaw had lived to continue his elaborate and valuable *History of Staffordshire*, the very next portion published would have contained the topography and archæology of Brewood. It is now ascertained that not only was this portion completed and written, but was actually in type; and two printed folio sheets are now in existence, with Shaw's MS. corrections of the press. The first of these sheets is in the possession of Sir Thomas Phillipps, Bart. who has declined permitting it to be copied. This sheet contains the History of the Manors of Brewood and Chillington. The second sheet of four folio pages is here printed exactly from Shaw's own copy, by the liberal permissive kindness of William Salt, Esq. This contains the information referring to Bromhall, Engleton, Somerford, Aspeley, Coven, and Brinsford. This portion, re-printed in its integrity, has a double value:—that which is intrinsic, and that which arises from bringing to light a genuine relic of one of the most eminent of antiquarians. The following pages to the end of Brinsford must be read with a constant recollection that their references have relation to Shaw's great work, and not to this book.

---

**B**ROMHAL, at the time of the Conquest, belonged to the Bishop of Chester's Manor of Brewood, and so continued until Walter (I suppose Durdent) Bishop of Coventry granted it, in Henry the Second's time, to Ralph his sewer (Dapifer) Lord of Harborne, together with all liberties and privileges according to the custom of the Manor of Brewood; for which he was to pay 4s. yearly at Michaelmas to buy candles for the high altar at Lichfield. This grant was confirmed by the Convent of Lichfield, with the consent of the Chapter of Coventry. The posterity of which Ralph took, I suppose, their names from hence, for not long after I met with one Ralph de Bromhale, who had issue Joseph

de Bromhale, who, 27 E. I. grants all his lands, tenements, &c. in Bromhale, with the Lordship, to Thomas de la Hyde and Margaret his wife, which Thomas had issue Thomas de la Hyde, and he Ralph, Giles, Nicholas, and John. Ralph had issue Thomas, his son and heir, and Eliza, daughter, which Thomas dying without issue, and Ralph Hyde being dead, his widow, Joan, who after was wife of Robert Borgylon, by the name of Joan, late wife of Robert Borgylon, 6 Hen. V. grants and releases this manor, &c. to Richard Lane and Elizabeth his wife, the daughter and heir of Ralph Hyde, which Richard Lane had issue John, who had issue John, who had issue Richard, who had issue Ralph, who had issue Richard, who had issue John, who had issue Thomas, who had issue John, who had issue Thomas Lane, esq. the present owner of this manor.\* But Loxdale says, "this place was sold, 2 Hen. VI. to John Leveson, of Wolverhampton, esq. who in the 15 Eliz. sold it to his cousin, John Leveson, of Little Wyrley, who sold it to Roger Fowke, of Brewood, esq." The whole or part of it has since belonged to the Giffards, as before mentioned, under Chillington.

---

### ENGLETON

Is another ancient manor and seat of a family who took their name from the place. Erdeswick says:—"Penk runneth from Somerford to Engleton, where it receiveth, westward, Brewood water, which taketh its beginning not far from Hales."† Huntbach says, this was also a member of the Manor of Brewood, and granted out by some of the Bishops; for in Edward II.'s time, it was certified that Thomas de Engleton held Engleton by Knight's service, and two appearances at the great court at Brewood yearly, &c. which Thomas, lord of Engleton, had issue Hugh, his son and heir, Thomas, and Ralph;

\* Huntbach's MS.

† This means Sheriff Hales, but no such brook arises near there.



which Hugh de Engleton was lord of this place 4 Edw. III. as appears by the following evidences :—

A grant from Ric. de Onne to Will. de Engleton of a yard of land in Engleton, which he had of the grant of Stephen the Abbat, and convent of Buldewas, paying to him and his heirs 1d. at Michaelmas, pro omnibus. And he covenants to free the said William from 4s. 6d. rent payable to the said abbat. For which grant the said William, with the consent of Felice his wife, granted to the said Richard one oxgang of land in Little Onne, and 18 acres of land and one messuage, &c. in the same place. Witnesses, Ada de Brinton, Rob. de Alaon, Rob. de Chitteley, Petro Giffard, Ada de Bruneford, & aliis (S.D.)

A deed from Thomas Lord of Engleton to Peter his uncle, for his life, of a messuage, in Engleton, paying 2s. per annum. Wit. mag'r Joh'e de Pendeford, Rob. de Somerford, Joh'e de Semprinham, Henry de Bromhale, et aliis. (S.D.)

A deed from Thomas lord of Engleton to Adam the son of Adam Bayliste, of Coven, of a selion of land in Engleton ; rent one half-penny. Wit. Ada atte Hethe, & aliis. (S.D.)

A deed from Hugh de Engleton to John de Molleslough, jun. of his manor of Engleton, in the liberty of Brewode. Wit. Tho. de la Hyde, Jo. de Somerford, & aliis. (S.D.)

A lease from Thomas lord of Engleton to Roger le Hewester of Brewode, of one half yard of meadow in the Broad Meadow of Engleton. for 30 years. Wit. Rob. de Somerford, Rob le Megre, & aliis. Dated 29 Edw. I.

A lease from Thomas lord of Engleton to Peter the son of Thomas of Engleton, of three selions of land to the use of William, the son of Walter, the son of Thomas, of the same : which selions the said Peter took for the term of 30 years of Walter the son of Thomas of Engleton. Wit. Rob. le Megre, Rog. le Heuster, & aliis. Dat. 1305, 33 Edw. I.

A release from Robert lord of Wyston to Thomas lord of Engleton and Joan his wife of his right and title to six-pence rent which he was wont to pay out of a tenement in Little Onne. Wit. Will'o d'no Pylatenhale, Rob. le Chaumpion, Hen. de Careswall, Rad. d'no de Coven, Joh'e fil. Margerie ——. Wit. Walter de Pylatenhale, Ad. Henr. de Stretton, & aliis. Dat. apud Whiston, 4 Edw. II.

A deed from Peter Crode of Engleton to Thomas the son of Thomas lord of Engleton of a messuage and cartillage, &c. in Engleton. Wit. Thomas lord of Engleton, Ric. Jordan & aliis. Dat. 10 Edw. II.

A deed from Thomas lord of Engleton to Eleanor the daughter of Roger de Caverswalle of those two messuages with cartillages in Engleton of which she had one of his gift called Midwinterhouse; and the other messuage she had of the gift of Thomas his son, rent 2d. for her life, and after her decease then to revert to the said Thomas his son. Wit. d'no Joh'e Gyfford, Tho. de la Hyde & aliis. Dat. 12 Edw. II.

A deed from Thomas lord of Engleton to Thomas his son of all those lands and tenements which Robert Carlos of Engleton and Alice his wife held for term of their lives and also 2s. and a cartillage rent, &c. as accustomed. Wit. Tho. de la Hyde, Rog. le Heuster, et aliis. Dat. 13 Edw. II.

Hugh de Engleton to Thomas de Engleton his father and Joan de Belne his wife his manor of Engleton for their lives. Dated 14 Edw. II.

A deed from Hugh son of Thomas lord of Engleton to Thomas his brother, of two pieces of land upon Calf heath which he had after the decease of Ralph his brother, for life. Wit. Ric. Jordan. Dat. 16 Edw. II.

A deed from Hugh lord of Engleton to Robert de Sharesnull of all his royalty and rent which he had in Little Onne, by right of inheritance after the decease of Tho. de Engleton, his father. Wit. Tho. fil. de Eyton, Tho. fil. Thon. dela Rok. & al. Dat. 4 Edw. III.

Tho. de Engleton to Will. de Engleton, vicar of Lapley, of a messuage with all lands and tenements in Engleton, rents, and services, as accustomed. Wit. Tho. de Levereshed d'no de Engleton, Ric. de Engleton, Joh'e de Seynt Pere, Will. Oliver & al. Dat. 28 Edw. III.

A feofment from Elianer the dr. of Thomas de Levereshed in her widowhood to Sir John de Wyke, Sir John Mer, Sir John Morris, and William Barker, of half her manor of Engleton, with all lands tenements and services to the said half belonging to be held by the chief lord by the rents and services accustomed. Wit. Ad de Pecshole, Joh'ne de Dratton, Will. de Dyke, Jo. Pollard, Will. Russell, & al. Dat. apud Ideshale, 50 Edw. III.

By these two last deeds, &c. it appears that in the 28th Edw. III. Thomas de Levereshed was lord of this manor; and 41 Edw. III. Thomas Reshed, chaplain, grants to Adam Wisbrid, and Joan, his wife, all his manor of Engleton which he had by their feofment to hold to the said Adam and Joan, and Joan their daughter, to the issue of her body; and for want of such issue, to Thomas, the son of Thomas de Levereshed, and the heirs of his body, and for want of such issue to Eleanor, the daughter of Tho. de Levereshed, and the heirs of her body, &c.

And in 50 Edw. III. Eleanor the said daughter, in her widowhood, enfeofs certain chaplains with half her manor of Engleton.

In 25 Henry VI. Alan de Withyford and Joan his wife, will their manor of Engleton to Roger Fowke and Elizabeth his wife, whose heir male is Phineas Fowke, M.D. the now owner.\*

The following grants will further elucidate the subject:—

11 Eliz. A deed of exchange between William Gough of Brewood and Matthew Moreton of Engleton gent. by which Wm. Gough grants to Matthew Moreton all those his parcels or doles in Engleton meadow which lately were Jeffry Somerford's. And Matthew Moreton grants to William Gough one parcel or dole of meadow in a meadow called Forsty meadow in Brewood.

39 Eliz. Roger Gough of Somerford grants to Roger Fowke of Little Aston, gent. 7 selions of land in Stonebridge field in Engleton. Witt. Edward Moreton, Edward Fowke, &c.

39 Eliz. Richard Bill of Somerford grants to Richard Fowke of Little Aston a selion of land in Stonebridge field in Engleton.

40 Eliz. A release from Richard Bill of Somerford in consideration of certain land he had in exchange from Roger Fowke of Brewood, Esq. to the said Roger of his right &c. to a selion of land in Engleton.

39 Eliz. A deed from Roger Fowke of Brewood, Esq. and Sybil his wife to John Eginton of Rodbaston of several parcels of land in Engleton.

40 Eliz. A deed from Roger Fowke of Aston gent. to Roger Fowke of Brewood, of his lands purchased of Edward Moreton of Engleton, gent. Margery his wife and Alice his mother, in Engleton and Brewood; and also of Roger Gough of Somerford and Richard Bill of Somerford, of land in Engleton to the use of Robert Fowke of Brewood and his heirs.

\* Huntbach's and Dugdale's MSS.



12 Jac. A deed from John Fowke of Gunston, Esq. to Thomas Fowke of Brewood, Gent. of a selion of land and meadow being half an acre shooting upon the river Stonebridge in Engleton.

12 Jac. A release from Roger Fowke, son and heir of John Fowke of Gunston to Tho. Fowke of Brewood, of the said selion of land and meadow.

From the Fowkes this manor passed to the Husseys, and by indentures of lease and release 1767 it appears that Phineas Hussey, of Little Wyrley, Esq. sold to Thomas Plimley, of Brewood Hall, gent. all that the manor of Engleton, with appurtenances, &c. and all that the capital messuage called Brewood Hall, with appurtenances before noticed.

All which manor, &c. of Engleton the said Thomas Plimley conveyed to the Hon. Edward Monckton in 1786.

Erdeswick tells us it was then the seat of one of the Mortons (of Moreton, in this county) who had for some time possessed the same; one of whose ancestors married a daughter and heir of one of the Engletons, sometime lords thereof, and by that reason have invested themselves with Engleton's armory, viz.: \* "Arg. a Chevron G. between 3 buckles Sa." as on the monument of Thomas Morton, of Engleton, Esq. one of the justices of the peace for this county, and Margery his wife, which Thomas died Sept. 15, 1558. We have also before given inscriptions in Brewood Church for Matthew Morton, &c. son, I suppose, of the above; but they never had the manor, for by an inquisition it appears that Matthew Morton died 24 Eliz. seized of a messuage called Buckland in Engleton, another called Knightley's lands, two others called Gough's lands, and divers lands in Brewood, Water Eaton, &c. 3 messuages in Acton, Dunston, Bednall, and Penkridge, and heritage and pennage in Oxleyhay, two parts in three.† In May, 1644, — Moreton, of Engleton, Esq. was imprisoned by the Committee of Stafford, and orders given that he should pay £100 within a week. Edward Moreton, of Moreton and Engleton, married Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Robert, fourth son of Sir Robert Ducie, Bart. of Little Aston, in Shenstone, before mentioned.

\* Erdeswick's Survey, p. 61.

† Inquisitio post mortem. See under Shenstone.

Dr. Wilkes says “Ingletton was long the seat of the Moretons, till they removed into Gloucestershire; and Matthew Ducie Moreton, son of the above, who had been a soldier in the wars of King William and Queen Anne, was created, June 13, 1720, Baron Ducie of Moreton, in Staffordshire. He died 1735, and was succeeded in the title and estates by Matthew, his eldest son, who, dying without issue, and his eldest sister, Elizabeth, having married, 1729, to Francis Reynolds, Esq. (son to Thomas Reynolds, formerly a South Sea director) the reversion of the honour was settled by a new patent, April 23, 1763, upon the sons of the said Francis and Elizabeth, viz.:—Thomas and Francis Reynolds; the former dying s. p. 1785, was succeeded by his brother Francis Reynolds Morton, the present Lord Ducie of Tortworth, in Gloucestershire, born March 28, 1739, married October 10, 1774, Mary, daughter of Thomas Purves, Esq. of Shepton Mallet, in Somersetshire, by whom (she died 1789) he had issue Thomas, his eldest son and heir apparent, born August 31, 1776, and Augustus Francis, born July 10, 1778. His Lordship married, secondly, Sarah Child, widow of Robert Child, Esq. the banker, and mother of the late Lady Westmoreland, who died May 23, 1793.

They have still the ancient messuage, and pay a chief rent to the lord of the manor.

The following being before omitted, we shall here introduce, viz.:—

To the first month's assessment\* 1662, Brewood cum membris paid £6 11s. 7d.

---

## SOMERFORD

Is another pleasant hamlet and ancient manor in this parish, about a mile east of Brewood. Dr. Wilkes says, Cymmere, Summer, or Somer, in British signifies the meeting of two brooks or rivers. Near this

\* A parchment roll of half the Hundred of Cuttlestone, of what the several constablewicks there stand charged for one month's assessment, by virtue of an Act of Parliament (for ordering the forces of the several counties in this kingdom) wherein was granted unto the King's Majesty three month's assessment, after the rate of £70,000 per month, to be paid in three years from the 28th June, 1661.

place the water that runs by Aspley and Standyford falls into this Brewood water. Huntbach gives the following account :—

This was also a member of Brewood and the Bishop's land, till Roger Bishop of Chester, granted it freely to Richard de Somerford by the service of half a knight's fee. He also gave him Hacnilde, the daughter of Francis, with all the lands which Francis held of the Bishop by the service of keeping the bishop's woods, and . . . . shillings per annum for the same, with ward penny and liberty to make a mill ; except the royal service of half a knight's fee. Adam de Breckton gave also to his lord, William de Somerford, half a ward of land in Somerford, which he held of the said William, some time the land of Walter Windesor, and the messuages. Afterwards Robert de Somerford, and 19 Edward III. John de Somerford was lord, and certified to hold Somerford by sergeantry, viz. when there were wars in Wales, to find a man and a horse worth half a mark and a hempen sack (*annum saceum de cannabo*) to be in the lord's service 40 days at his own charges, but if he kept him longer, then the lord was to maintain him ; from thence it continued in the same family till Francis Somerford, esq. who was the owner in Huntbatch's time (as the following pedigree shews) sold it to Walter Wrottesley, in King William III.'s time, according to Loxdale ; and Dr. Wilkes says, in 1734 Somerford was sold to Robert Barbor, a lawyer, of London, whose family had long been connected with the county. From the Barbors it passed by purchase to the present owner, the Hon. Edward Monckton, M.P. for Stafford, to whose ingenuity and taste this charming seat is indebted for its present great improvement. This gentleman is third son of John Monckton first Viscount Galway and Baron Killard, in Ireland, by his second lady, Jane, daughter of Henry Westenra, Esq. of Queen's County, married in 1734 ; she died at Somerford, in 1788, aged 78, as on her monument in Brewood Chancel before shewn. Mr. Monckton married the daughter of Lord Pigot, of Patshull, by whom he has issue Edward, his son and heir apparent, and eight other sons and four daughters.

The house, of which two beautiful plates are here contributed, now exhibits a very neat and massive front ; the large drawing room on the left side being the old part erected by Mr. Barbor.



The offices are all very excellent and commodious, for the purpose of saving manual labour, being supplied with water from a large reservoir at the top of the house, which is filled by a water work invented and erected at great expense by Mr. Monckton, on the river at some distance. The gardens and hothouses are likewise very spacious and excellent, affording at all times an abundance of fruit; and the strawberry beds, &c. are irrigated in a very simple and novel manner, from a reservoir in the highest part, which catches the surplus water of the house, and from thence is carried along narrow channels of brick to different parts of the garden.

The plantations are very extensive and variegated, as before noticed in the *Botanical Catalogue*, under the *Ilex* (?) in vol. 1. And as a remarkable instance of the removal of an oak of about 100 years' growth, there is one now flourishing on the lawn, opposite the left wing of the house, as represented in the engraving, which was carried thither a few years since from a distance of about 200 yards.

---

#### ASPELEY.

ANOTHER ancient manor in this parish, on the opposite side of the turnpike road from Wolverhampton to Penkridge, and between Somerford and Sharesill. Thomas Ellingbridge, 21 Henry VII. died seized of this manor (then held of Simon Harcourt) and Anne was his daughter and heir, æt. 3. It afterwards belonged to the Fowkes; and by an indenture, July 18, 1704, between Thomas Fowke, of the parish of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, com. Middlesex, esq. and Mary, his wife, heretofore wife of Richard Chandlor, the younger, gent. deceased, and Thomas Bracegirdle, of Wolverhampton, gent. witnesseth, that the aforesaid Thomas and Mary sell to said Thomas Bracegirdle all the manor and appurtenances, &c. in the parish of Brewood, and the capital messuage or manor house of Aspeley aforesaid, which the said Thomas Fowke lately inhabited, and the fine recited herein specifies two messuages, two cottages, a water corn mill, 150 acres of land, 30 of meadow and 120 of pasture and common, &c.

Henry Bracegirdle left two daughters co-heirs, one of whom married Thomas Watson Perks, of Shareshill, whose representatives a few years since sold the aforesaid manor and estate to the Hon. Edward Monckton, the present owner thereof.

---

### COVEN.

SITUATE two miles up that part of the river which there becomes a considerable boundary between the two hundreds. Erdeswick briefly observes—"Penk, eastward, leaveth first Coven, which 20 Conq. Buered\* held of Robert de Stadford, to whom the Conqueror gave this manor, then containing one hide, having woods half a mile long, and one quarentine broad, which wood was in the king's demesne, the land being valued at 16s."†

Huntbach thus continues the account:—"About the time of King John a family who took their name from hence, were owners of it (several of them being knights) though some of the family write themselves de Penford. In Henry III.'s time Ralph de Coven passed this manor to John Bradescumb, of Penkridge, and William de Hyde, of Brewood, chaplains.

However, 8 Eliz. Sir William de Shareshall purchased here a knight's fee and half of Ralph L. Staßford; and 14 Ric. II. the said Sir William and Mary, his wife, passed a fine *inter alia* of two parts of the manors of Coven and Brinsford, with appurtenances, in Staffordshire. By their daughter it went to the Harcourts of Patshull, as there shown, and Richard Harcourt passed a fine of the same, 7 Henry IV. Sir Walter Harcourt sold it to sir Walter Leveson, by whose executors *inter alia* it was sold sir Edward Littleton, for the payment of debts. He sold it to Lane of Bentley, who was in possession of the former part of the Hyde by marriage, as in their pedigree: Lane sold it to ———, widow of Sir Walter Wrottesley,‡ from which family it passed to the Barbors, who sold it to the present possessor, the Hon. E. Monckton above-mentioned.

\* Erdeswick's Survey, p. 60, where it is misprinted Bruerd.

+ Domesday Book, General Appendix, vol. 1.

‡ Huntbach's MSS. See also pp. 69, 220, &c.

## BRINSFORD,

SITUATE upon Penford brook, is part of the hundred of Seisdon, in Byshbury parish, as there mentioned, and part in this parish. Erdeswick gives no account of it; but Huntbach says "there is no mention of this place in the Conqueror's Survey, by which I judge it was then included in Coven. In the time of Henry III. Bertram de Burgo, Knt. was lord, after Sir William Bagot, of the Hyde juxta Stafford, was lord of it. 28 Edw. I. Edward, son and heir of Philip Barnall, was certified to hold it of the barony of Dudley. Afterwards, Sir William Shareshill had it, and whither it passed from that family I know not; but it is now joined with Coven, Thomas Lane, of Bentley, Esq. being lord of it."\* From thence it passed, after several mesne alienations, to the Hon. Edward Monckton, the present possessor thereof. The following grants will further elucidate the subject:—

A deed from William Bagod of the Hyde to Henry Russell of Brinsford in consideration of 5s. and his service of an acre of land in Brinsford, lying between the churchway and the cartillage to the said Henry in breadth, and in length, from the Thorny-furlong gate to the Green field, paying to the said William 12d. per annum for all foreign services, reliefs, wards, heriots, suits of court, contributions, and for all similar demands and exactions which can be demanded by any mortal man, by reason of the said lands. Wit. Robert de Northcote, Richard Bagod de Brinsford, et aliis. (S.D.)

A deed from Richard Bagod of Brinsford to Emma his daughter for her service, of a messuage with a cartillage in the village of Brinsford, viz. that which he had of Bertram de Burgg, lying betwixt the mess. of Richard Bagot on the one part, and the way called the Greenway on the other part, also of 11 selions of land, and one place of meadow in the several fields of Brinsford, two selions lay in a field called the Sperte, near the Greenway, four selions lay in Russell's Burck, now the way called Greenway, two selions lay in and extend in length from a field called Thorney-furlongs to Hushens byrch, and three selions lay in Thorney-furlongs field between the land of the lord and the land of the

\* Huntbach's MSS. See their pedigree, page 69 (?)



said Richard Bagot—and in length from the land of the lord at one end, to the land of the lord at the other end ; with a headland at the end of the said three selions ; and the place of meadow lyeth betwixt the Sperte on the one part, and meadow of the lord's on the second part, and a little . . . on the third part, and a meadow of the said Richard Bagot on the other part, and half an acre and common of pasture in Coven and Brinsford, paying 4d. ob. at St. Andrew's-tide for the said messuage, and for the 11 selions and meadow at Lady-day for all services and demands. Wit. Rad's d'ns de Coven, Rad's dn's de Bushbary, Joh'es de Mollesley et al's. (S.D.)

Another deed from Henry de Brinsford to Henry Wade of Ridware and Julian daughter of the said Henry de Brinsford, of half the lands in Forecroft, lying near the apart of William the carpenter of Mollesley, and extendeth it in length betwixt the hall forecroft and the apart of William the milner of Mollesley, as it is divided betwixt the said Henry Wade and Thomas son of Henry of Brinsford. Dated 1 Edw. II. Witness, John de Mollesley &c.

A deed from Henry Wade of Ridware to Julian daughter of Henry Russell of Brinsford of nine selions of land which he had of the gift of the said Henry Russell, two thereof lay within Brinsford in the apart of Henry Russell juxta Vivarium de Coven, two in the same territory in the field called Greenfield, and three in the same territory in the Forecroft extending from the land of Maud Lady Burnall to the land of William the milner of Mollesley, paying a penny at Lady-day for all services and demands. Witnesses Radulff d'n's de Bissebury, Radulff d'n's de Couene, et aliis. Dated 1307 (1 Edw. II.)

A deed from Henry Russell of Brinsford to Thomas his son, of half of his lands in Forecroft, lying near Thorny-furlong, in length between Halle Forecroft and Alote Bruthe, and is divided betwixt the said Thomas and Henry Wade paying a farthing to the lord for services and demands. Dated 1 Edw. II.

A deed from Thomas the son of Henry Russell to William Newmon, of a messuage and croft in Byshbury and a piece of land called New Byrch, and half a croft called Forecroft, and three selions in . . . and an acre in Shaw-furlong, rent as accustomed omnibus. Dated 7 Edw. II. Test. Radul. d'n's de Coven &c.

PERROTT, of Bell Hall, county of Worcester; settled there many years. Supposed to be a branch of the very ancient family of Perrott, of Haroldston (Baronets.) Some of the Worcestershire Perrotts went to York with an Archbishop translated from Worcester.

Richard Perrott, B.D. Prebend of York and Vicar of Hull. Ob. 1640. = Dorothy, daughter, of — Harris, of Huntington.

= Thomas Savage, of Elmley Castle. Married Elizabeth,  
relict of Thomas 3rd Earl of Coventry.

Andrew Perrott, Lord Mayor of York = Martha, daughter of Charles Vaux, of  
Hull. Ob. 1713.

Elizabeth, = William Byrche, LL.D. Chancellor  
of Worcester, sometime of Leacroft,  
co. of Stafford.

Anastasia, daughter of = Thomas Perrott, M.A.  
Geo. Barbor, of Somers- Rector of St. Martin's,  
ford. Ob. 1749. York.

Eighteen other children; among whom  
Andrew, Mayor of Hull 1709, and Charles,  
Lord Mayor of York 1710.

Dorothy, daughter of = Thomas took the name  
Thomas Sneyd Kin- of Savage, and suc-  
nersley, of Loxley, ceeded to Elmley Castle.  
co. Stafford. Ob. s. p. 1776.

Jane. Married to  
Robert Clavering.  
Her son succeeded  
to Elmley.

Ist wife, =  
Elizabeth.

John Perrott, some- = 2nd wife, Elizabeth,  
time of Cannock, co. widow of Thomas  
Stafford. Sep. Bre- Hawes, of London.  
wood, 1802.

Ten other children;  
among whom George,  
a Baron of the Ex-  
chequer. Ob. 1780.

Mary. = Thomas.  
Superstes 1855. Ob. s. p.

Mary. = The Rev. James Bosquet.

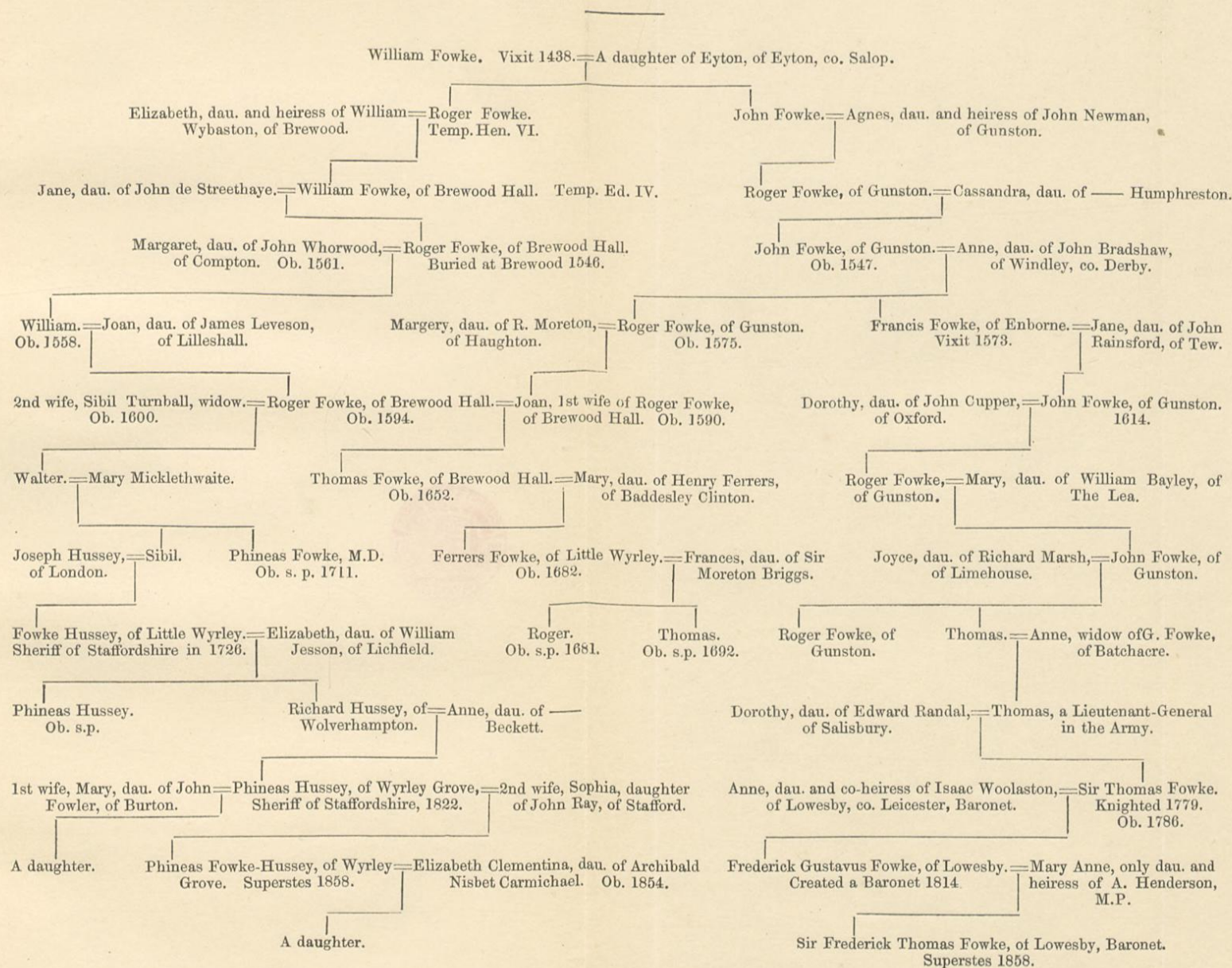
The Hon. and Rev. T. L. Dundas. = Mary Jane.

Louisa. = The Rev. John Field.





# PEDIGREE OF FOWKE, OF BREWOOD HALL AND GUNSTON.

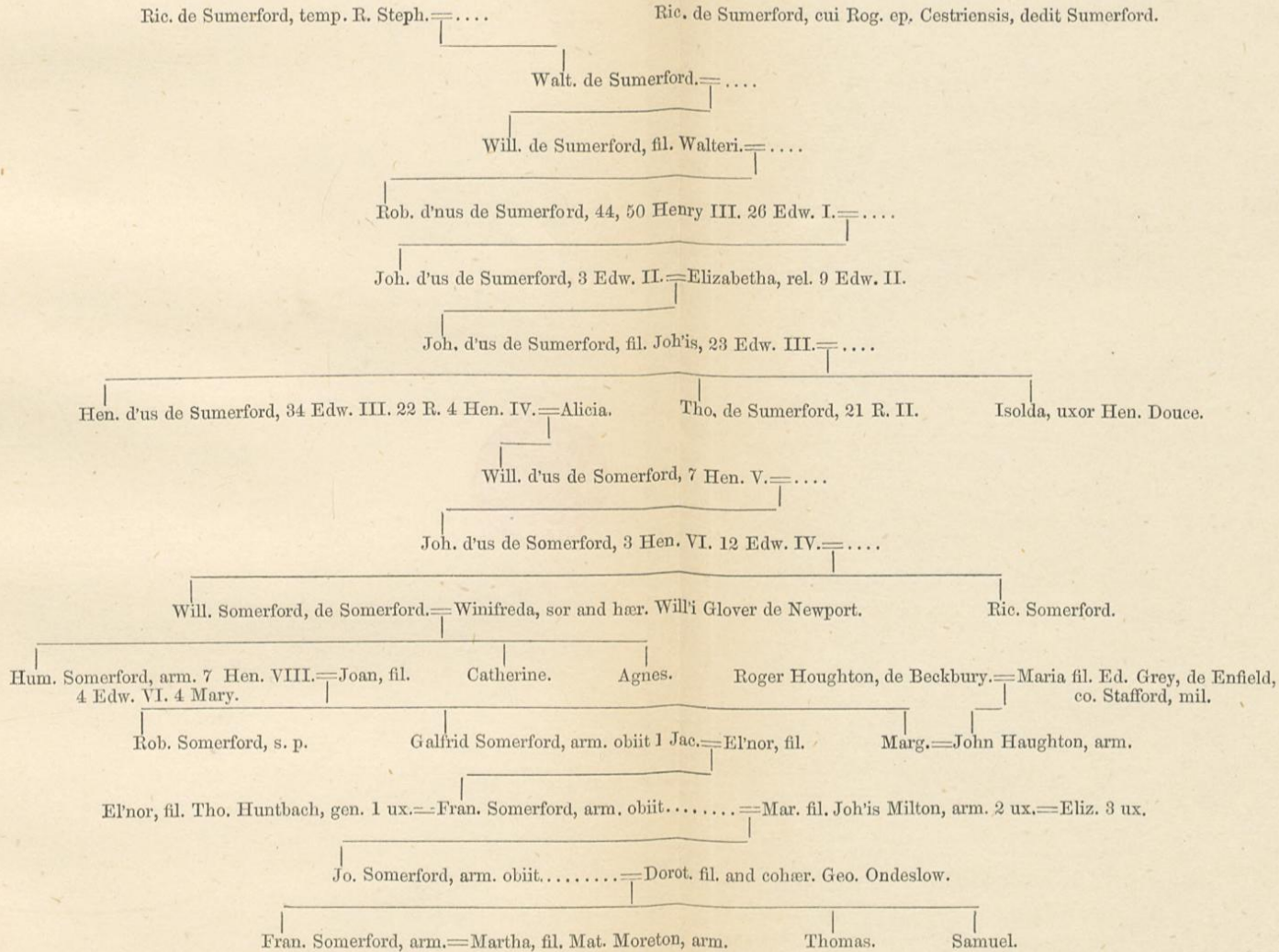






PEDIGREE OF SOMERFORD.—FROM HUNTBACH'S MSS.

Arms : Vert, a stag or buck or, within a bordure engrailed argent.









# MORETON, OF MORETON, WILBRIGHTON, AND ENGLETON.

ARMS : Argent, a chevron, gules, betwixt three buckles, Sable.

A.D. 1086.—Nigel held Moreton of the Bishop of Chester.

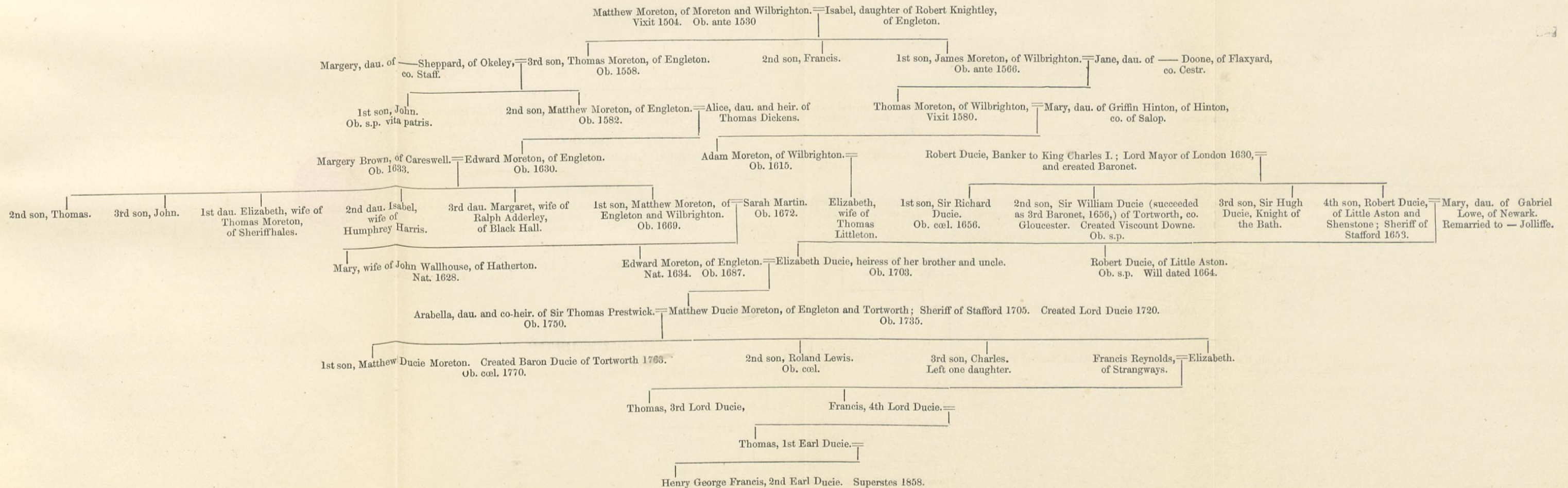
1154.—Adam de Moreton held the same.

1235.—Michael de Moreton.

1316—1324.—John de Moreton.

1324—1345.—Adam de Moreton.

1365—1415.—James de Moreton obtained Wilbrighton from William de Shareshull.





[illegible]





## PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

---

THE only records of a non-corporate town like Brewood are to be found in the series of annual accounts of the parish officers—the constables, the churchwardens, the overseers, and the surveyors. And the entries in these accounts are, necessarily, only repetitions of matters of course from year to year. Occasionally, however, entries occur, which, by reference to national affairs, or by illustration of local transactions, throw a pleasant gleam of light over the dull waste of parish history. It is proposed to make a few extracts from the *Brewood Accounts*, which may be found thus interesting; adding, where necessary, a remark explanatory or elucidatory. Of course the extracts will be confined to the most ancient of these relics.

The *Constables' Accounts of Brewood* have been found tolerably complete for the century between 1656 and 1756. One worn and faded fragment has been discovered of a much earlier date, and as it happens to contain an assessment of the parish—the earliest on record—it is well worth preserving.

“A halfe lewne layed the 24th day of June, Anno Domini 1605, for repaying of the Stonbridge, by the consent of those whose names are underwritten.

Imprimis Brewood .....	xxs.
Chillington .....	xiijs. ivd.
Horsebrook .....	xs. vjd.
Gunston .....	vjs.
Somerford.....	vijs. ijd.
Engleton .....	iijs.”

Some of the “names underwritten” are Thomas Bickford, William Smyth, of Woolly, John Mott, Jacob Yate, Edward Eccleshall, John Harper, &c. &c. Many names are quite effaced by the action of time

and damp. The same half-obliterated fragment of a sheet has afforded the following memorandum:—"There remaynes of the parishes armor, in John Fletcher's howse, of Horsebrook, two corselets, two pikes, two swordes, one girdle."

---

CONSTABLES' ACCOUNTS.

1656.

	£	s.	d.
June 24th.—Paid for setting up a pair of shooting butts in Horsebrooke .....	1	4	
Sept. 2.—Paid for my presentment of all the Papists And for my oath thereto.....	1	0	4
Sept. 14th.—Paid for 80 summonses to Papists to appear at Quarter Sessions.....	6	8	

[This entry illustrates two matters:—the severity of the Penal Laws under the Commonwealth, and the low scale of fees for magisterial business—the "summonses" being but one penny each.]

1657.

June 12.—For carrying clods and setting up a pair of shooting butts in Brewood.....	5	0	
---	---	---	--

1658.

Feb. 25.—My charges and presentments at Cannock about the Recusants .....	1	4	
May 23rd.—Paid Mr. Launder the money for the new bridge in the Streetway .....	2	1	8

[This must have been a heavy "burden" as the "halfe lewne" above quoted amounts to £3 only.]

1659.

Given to two companies of Egyptians that had passes	2	0	
Given to a trumpeter, with three others who were maimed, and had a pass <i>under the Lord Protector's Seal</i> .....	1	0	

[This was Richard Cromwell, Oliver having deceased in 1658.]

	£	s.	d.
May 17.—To the High Constable at Penkridge, for charges in defending two suits in law commenced against the Hundred of Cuttlestone, for two robberies done in the same hundred .....		12	6

## 1663.

For timber and sundry repairs to Gunston Bridge ...	1	5	4
For mending the bridge at Dean's Hall Brook.....	0	0	4
For mending the bridge at Brewood Hall Brook .....			8

The following three entries are so curious, that great pains have been taken—but vainly—to find a clue to them :—

For going to Stafford <i>about the books</i> .....	1	6	
For writing the list of <i>the books</i> to fetch them by.....	1	0	
April 30.—For going to Stafford to pay for <i>the books</i> , being called God and the King's .....	1	6	
For repairing Brewood shooting butts .....	1	0	

## 1664.

June 12.—Bestowed on them that were charged, and others, to help about the fire in the Dean's End : and on the morrow to carry water with carts	2	0	
Given to a gentleman which had a pass to go from Ireland to London, being sent to me by Mr. Walter Giffard, of Chillington .....	1	0	

[Rather a remarkable thing that a "gentleman" should be travelling with a pass.]

## 1665.

To the High Constable, for infected persons that were in Cheslin Hay .....	12	6	
---	----	---	--

## 1666.

To Francis Tisdale, his wife and seven children, who had a pass and the Privy Seal .....			8
---	--	--	---



	s.	d.
June 24.—Bestowed in ale upon some neighbours, that were raised in the night to go to Chillington to meet a company of strange horsemen which went to Whiteladies with a funeral, not then knowing their occasion .....	1	0
Sept. 16.—Given to John Mawburn, <i>with his maid</i> and five children, who had the King's Broad Seal.....	6	

## 1667.

To George Whithridge, for going to Stafford to certify the coroner of the manner of the death of Nicholas Roe's man .....	3	0
To the same, for sack which he gave to the coroner.....	2	0

[It may be presumed that George Whithridge and the coroner settled this affair over the two shillings' worth of sack, as no inquest appears to have been held on "Nicholas Roe's man."]

To Katherine Jones, coming with a pass from London <i>to travel to Winifred's Well</i> .....	6	
---	---	--

## 1668.

Many expenses occur this year arising out of a charge made against Thomas Richards for the murder of Humphrey Wood. The result does not appear.

## 1674.

Given to Captain Timothy Crow, having an order to travel under His Majesty's own hand and Privy Seal.....	4	0
---	---	---

## 1678.

My charges and Peter Leadbetter's going to Stafford, the 25th of December, with a "papish" priest to the gaol .....	6	0
To the turnkey, for receiving the priest.....	4	
For hire of a horse to carry the priest .....	8	

[There are a great many charges this year, being the time when the nation was going mad on the Popish Plot, in relation to "Papishes" and "Papishes' estates," and for "going by command to search for priests."]

1682.

	£	s.	d.
For dining with the " Bayley" of the Hundred.....	2	6	
For making a new stone bridge at Gunston .....	2	10	0
To Mr. William Mansell, for his charges in seeking to make Standeford Bridge a hundred bridge .....	1	2	0

1688.

To a letter of request sent to me from Vicar Tomkis, to redeem several slaves out of Turkey .....	4	6	
For whipping Mary Hollygreen.....	1	0	
For taking Will. Haulle to gaol upon suspicion of stealing several horses .....	6	0	

1693.

To Mr. Gudwin, for the man that cut his throat .....	14	6	
For fetching Mr. Gudwin .....	1	0	
To John Sayer, for maintaining the man .....	4	6	

No entries of a later date have any interest.

---

CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNTS.

1653.

This account is very imperfect, the sheet being much torn, and the writing half obliterated. A fragment can be made out to "maimed soldiers,"—to John Carles, for mending chimes and making the dial work,—and to a poor minister that preached.

1656.

The following accounts for repairs of the Church roof are given in their detail. Similar charges occur at intervals through these accounts until 1750. See page 13.

To Goodman Osbourne, of Codsall Wood, for a thousand of shingles for the Church.....	2	0	0
To Wm. Shorte, of Somerford, for carrying them from the farther side Chillington Park to Brewood ...	3	0	
For an eaves-pole for the laying of the new shingles...			8

	£	s.	d.
Beer for those who fetched the ladders and helped to rear them .....			2
To Mr. Carter, for nails to the shinglers .....		3	8
To the shinglers.....	1	3	0
For 400 shingles more .....	1	0	0
For two pieces of timber to make spars for the south porch .....		1	4
For a wall-plate for the same.....		1	0
For work done about the same .....			8
To the shinglers more .....	1	0	0
Bestowed on them when they had finished their work			6
To Ralph Gaslynge, for a board to make one side of a crest for the south porch.....		1	0
For great nails for the upper end of the spars on the south porch.....			2

The repairs of the north porch, of which details follow, are of a very distinct character to those of the south porch: thus clearly evidencing the difference between the north and south aisles in 1656. See pp. 12, 13.

To Christopher Hall, for 10 strikes of lime for the repair of the north porch, and for pointing the leads and other places about the Church .....	3	8
For 300 tiles for the north porch .....	6	0
To George Swan, for nailing and pointing the leads, and for tiling the north porch and other work ...	9	9
For tenpenny nails for the leads, and lath nails for the north porch .....		8
To the sexton, for sweeping and carrying dust forth of the Church, after the shinglers and masons had finished their work.....		6

In this year, and in many successive years, there occurs a regularly quarterly payment of £1 3s. 4d. for maimed soldiers.

Given to John Warner, of Little Saredon, who had his house and goods burnt by a fire.....	5	0
---	---	---



	£	s.	d.
For bread and wine for a Sacrament.....	1	4	6
To Francis Newball, for looking to the chimes .....	10	0	
To Baddeley, of Tong, for amending the clock .....	8	10	
For wine for a private Sacrament, at Brewood Hall ...	1	0	
For the ministers' dinners that preached one lecture day .....	2	0	
To Jane Wilkes, for <i>ridding the graves</i> .....		4	
No entry of importance for ten years.			

1667.

To Jane Bursley, for watering the "hew" trees in the churchyard .....	2		
--	---	--	--

[As the watering indicates recent planting, we may fairly judge the age of the yew trees now in the churchyard.]

For 12 quarts of wine at the Cock, at Wolverhampton	1	4	0
For going to Hampton to exchange the flagon .....	1	0	
In exchange of the flagon .....	1	6	

In this and the succeeding years there are occasional payments of 1s. each for foxes' heads; and a very frequent payment of 2d. each for hedgehogs' heads. In 1667 nearly a hundred hedgehogs are paid for; and in 1671 the number is 210.

1676.

In this year are many charges for general repairs; and many for repairs to the screen. There is a charge of sixpence for rearing the ladder to the screen.

1677.

Paid for stopping out the jackdaws .....	3	4	
To the "plummer" for mending the leads .....	1	15	0
My charges at Lichfield, seeing for a minister to give the Sacrament.....	3	6	

[There is no explanation of this entry. Richard Emery was then Vicar of Brewood.]

1698.

In this year occurs the first charge for "Processioning," or walking the bounds of the parish. A considerable amount of liquor appears to have been imbibed on the occasion. The same charge occurs afterwards at uncertain intervals.

## 1710.

	£	s.	d.
For a bottle of wine for the parson and the dean, at the Visitation .....	2	6	
For 24 bottles of wine against Easter Sacrament .....	3	0	0
For 6 bottles of wine against Christmas Sacrament ...	15	0	

## 1716.

February 12th.—Ringling for news .....	4	0	
March 8th.—For ringling again .....	2	6	
To Mr. Chatterton and Thomas Dearn, for erecting the pulpit, reading desk, and clerk's desk.....	12	0	0

## 1720.

For a form of prayer about the plague .....	2	6	
For the old clerk's debts.....	11	0	

## 1724.

Spent upon the workmen at viewing the beam .....	1	6	
Rearing the ladder twice .....	1	0	

## 1727.

For wine for communicants in the sickness .....	13	9	
To a man, with two wooden legs and a pass .....		6	
For a surplice .....	2	2	11
For making it.....	5	0	

## 1738.

For killing two owls .....		6	
To the Rev. Mr. Budworth .....	1	0	0
To the same, for copying the Register .....	10	0	

## 1739.

For four owls .....	2	0	
To the Rev. Mr. Budworth .....	1	0	0

## 1740.

Paid the parson .....	1	0	0
-----------------------	---	---	---

Foxes and owls are paid for continually.

## SUPERVISORS OF HIGHWAYS.

Between 1730 and 1750, there is an imperfect series of accounts under this head. They contain nothing worthy of note, except that there are two separate and distinct supervisors for the town of Brewood; one being supervisor for the "HIGH TOWN," and one for the "DEANERY."

## OVERSEERS' ACCOUNTS.

These commence in 1662, and are tolerably complete. The entries generally are void of interest; but a few selections are made.

1662.

	s.	d.
For going to Wrottesley with Mr. Fowke, of Gunston, in the behalf of the parish.....	1	0
Spent at Codsall to make Mr. Fowke to drink .....		4

[It is worthy of note that the journey from Gunston to Wrottesley is so severe as to require a pause for refreshment at Codsall; and the overseer modestly infers that *he* did not share Mr. Fowke's liquor.]

1675.

The following is the scale of burial charges for the poor:—

To the minister for burying Jackson's child .....	6
To the clark .....	6
To the gravemaker.....	4
For ale .....	1 0

1717.

My charges for going to "basscobell" to Mr. Pendrill's	1 0
--	-----

1729.

The following are a surgeon's charges:—

For curing old Duncalf's leg .....	10 0
For curing Hipwood's ribs, and physic for his fever...	1 0 10
For dressing Lyon's girl's back .....	5 0
For curing old Davis's daughter of a dropsy .....	6 6
For physic for Potts's wife in her illness .....	3 0



1734.

The following entries offer another professional illustration. They are the charges attending some "appeal" tried at Stafford; on what subject is not known:—

Expended at Michaelmas Sessions, in defence of the parish against William Harla's appeal:—

	£	s.	d.
At Brewood on the witnesses.....		1	0
And at Penkridge .....		1	0
At Stafford before dinner, 16 persons, at 4d. each ...		5	4
Paid Counsellor Littleton's fee .....	1	1	0
And Mr. "Swingfield Jarvice" .....	1	1	0
For 16 persons' dinner, 1s. 6d. each .....	1	4	0
Expences after dinner, 6d. each.....		8	0
For 3 subpoenas—the rest of the witnesses coming without .....		3	0
Meat and drink at supper, sixpence each .....		8	0
The same for each at breakfast .....		8	0
Sixteen dinners the second day .....	16	0	
Expences after dinner .....		8	0
Paid the court fees.....		4	4
For a sheet of stamped paper to take the security upon .....		1	7
Paid Mr. Revell Phillips for soliciting and attending the Sessions 2 days.....	2	2	0
Paid for horsehire, 7 horses, 2 days each, at 1s. a day .....		14	0
For their hay and corn .....		8	6
Given to the servants at the inn .....		2	0
The solicitor's charges during the Sessions, ordinary and extraordinary .....		1	10

[The total cost is £11 6d. 9s. of which £6 2s. 11d. goes to counsel, attorney, and court, and £5 3s. 10d. is for eating, drinking, &c.]

The few entries that follow are given as illustrative of the current prices of provisions between 1745 and 1755. With respect to beef it is

to be noticed that generally at the end of September a quarter is purchased, which is particularly designated "bull" beef; a trophy, doubtless, of the too-celebrated bull baitings of Brewood Wake, which, even so late as 1834, used to draw the vilest of the population of the mining district to Brewood, with a numerous army of bulldogs, when they did not even wait for daylight on Monday morning to commence the disgusting and brutalising sport.

## 1746.

	£	s.	d.
3 strike of pease .....	8	0	
3 strike of corn .....	6	9	
3 strike of blend corn .....	8	11	
6 new cheeses .....	5	0	
144 lbs. of bacon, at $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. ....	2	2	0
72 lbs. of beef, at 1d. ....	6	0	
3 horse loads of coals.....	4	0	

In this same year the surgeon's salary is two guineas.

## 1747.

136 lbs. of beef (a quarter) .....	11	0
60 lbs. of cheese.....	10	6

## 1756.

31 lbs. of beef, at $1\frac{3}{4}$ d. ....	4	6
2 lbs. of butter, at $4\frac{3}{4}$ d. ....		9
A calf's race .....		10
A pint of ale and a loaf .....		$2\frac{1}{2}$
A leg of beef .....		10
126 lbs. of beef, at $1\frac{1}{4}$ d. ....	13	$0\frac{1}{2}$
3 strike of potatoes.....	6	0
10 strike of corn.....	3	6 8
A sheep ..	3	8
A bushel of salt .....	4	0
A bushel of oatmeal .....	7	0

A few odd entries, taken at random from the years 1756 and 1757, will conclude these extracts.

	s.	d.
Paid the tailor, a day's work .....		6
Paid old Povey for teaching school .....		1½
For ale for old Phebe .....		2
For a pair of spectacles for Dan. Harley .....		5
For half a pint of wine for old Phebe .....		3½
Paid Jerry Etheridge, for two pairs of shoes .....	9	6
For a clog for Richard Leek .....		8
For 25 cwt. of coals .....	12	6
For 2 lbs. of tobacco .....	2	0







## APPENDIX A.

---

### THE CHURCH.

SOME particulars respecting the alteration of the church by the erection of the present barn-like roof have been discovered since the earlier pages of this work were printed : a fragment of vestry minutes records not only the chief incidents, but supplies accurately names and dates.

The state of the roof was of so perilous a character in 1775 that the churchwardens—Thomas Careless and Henry Sherratt—were compelled to propose a broad and costly alteration to the parish. The accounts of the wardens evidence most clearly the yearly cost arising from the “shingled” roof of the south aisle. It must be borne in mind that at the period now spoken of the nave retained its original flat roof, covered with lead : that the north aisle is supposed to have had a tiled roof leaning to the nave : and that the south aisle had its transverse gables covered with shingles.

On the 10th of April, 1775, it was resolved (in vestry) to “repair the two wing\* roofs of the church, cover the same with slates, and ceil them inside.” The meeting appears to have been adjourned for settling details, and was resumed on the 1st of May, 1775, when it was proposed by Thomas Hickin and Jeremiah Smith to take the whole roof off the church, and put on a new one upon one pitch. The proposal was strongly objected to ; and after a stormy discussion it would appear that the vestry could arrive at no decision ; but finally consented to refer the consideration of the whole matter to some competent builder.

\* This use of the exact Saxon-English, equivalent to the Norman “aisle,” is somewhat remarkable. May it be presumed that it was thus designated in common parlance ?

A year elapses before any thing more is heard of the matter; but the minutes of a vestry meeting, held on the 6th of May, 1776 (Messrs. Careless and Sherratt being again wardens) shew that "John Smith, of Wolverhampton, builder" made his report on the matter referred to him. His report has the merit of brevity and simplicity. He only says that "a one-pitch roof will be *much the cheapest*" Of course the decision of the vestry might have been easily anticipated:—the work was ordered to be done in "much the cheapest" manner, though it is stated (to the honour of the dissentients) that the parishioners were divided. No farther record of proceedings is found until March 16, 1777, when the vestry ordered the north and south doors to be stopped, and an entrance to be made at the west door. New windows were also ordered for the aisles; and we have existing evidence that they were to be in the "much-the-cheapest" style. The sum of £400 is ordered to be borrowed for the work, and it may fairly be presumed that the "great reform" was forthwith commenced.\*

The last important repair of the spire had been made some years previous to the alteration of the roof. There was an agreement entered into in October, 1772, with William Thompson, of Lichfield, to take down the top of the spire, as far as was necessary, within fourteen days; and afterwards to re-build the same in a proper manner, using the old materials as far as might be. The whole cost was £40.

The particulars of the church property at the time of the Dissolution, which was casually omitted from page 14, is here extracted from the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*.

Church of Brewood. Richard Sampson, Dean of Lichfield, is the Parson, who is of the Household of our Lord the King.

And he has in glebe land yearly.....	ijl.
And in tithes of grain.....	xixl.
And in rents .....	ijl.
And in wool and lamb .....	vl.
The total is .....	xxxl.

\* There is a tradition in Brewood that the first person who mounted the roof to commence the *great* undertaking, came down in "much-the-cheapest" manner, having fallen to the ground and seriously injured himself.

The Vicar of the same Church is Henry Fleming.

He has in Easter offerings, yearly .....	ivl. xiijs. ivd.
And in oblations .....	xijs.
And from hemp and flax .....	xiijs. ivd.
And from pigs and poultry .....	viijs.
And from fruits .....	iijs.
And from herbage .....	viijs.
The total is.....	vił. xvijs. viijd.

The same valuable record has the following among the temporalities belonging to Rowland, by Divine permission Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield.

From the Manor of Brewood .....	lvijl. ix. vijd.
The perquisites of the court there .....	xiijs. ivd.

Fees annually paid thereout :—

To Thomas Gyffard, Bailiff and Keeper of the Park of Brewood .....	vl. viijd.
To the same Thomas Giffard, as Bailiff of the Liberties of the Episcopat .....	vl.

---

## APPENDIX B.

---

### BLACKLADIES.

A farther inspection of the Chillington MSS. has afforded some additional interesting information as to the struggle made by Blackladies to maintain its extra-parochial rights. A most important question it was to the proprietor, for it involved not merely the liability to parish rates, but to tithes; indeed, it was the tithes that were first brought in question.



In 1680, Samuel Wightwick was the lessee of the Dean of Lichfield as regards the tithes of Brewood, and filed a bill in Chancery, in that year, to compel John Giffard, of Blackladies, to set out the tithe on his said manor or farm of Blackladies. Mr. Giffard's case was, that Blackladies had never paid tithes, being first excused, as a monastery, by a bull of Pope Gregory the Ninth; and the privilege confirmed after the Dissolution by the Act of 31 Henry VIII. c. 13. The answer of the respondent was deemed sufficient, and the petitioner's bill dismissed. But Wightwick was in no way daunted, and commenced a suit in the Exchequer. An issue was directed to try the question whether Blackladies was or was not in the parish of Brewood; and the verdict was for Mr. Giffard. A new trial was granted to Wightwick, and the verdict reversed; and on a third trial the verdict against Mr. Giffard was repeated. In the mean time it is stated that Mr. Wightwick "drew in the parish to his quarrel," and so caused Blackladies to be assessed to the poor's rate of Brewood. The rate was appealed against, but confirmed by the Quarter Sessions; and Mr. Giffard refusing to pay, a distraint was made upon his property. For this he brought an action against the overseers of Brewood, without success. The result of the Exchequer proceedings was a judgment for the total sum of £101. This, too, Mr. Giffard refused to pay, and ultimately process was issued against his person. In some shape or other the proceedings were continued or renewed for nearly twenty years, and finally carried to the House of Lords. The ultimate decision was fatal to the independence of Blackladies.

The principal grounds relied upon for the *extra-parochiality* of Blackladies are stated on pp. 60, 61. But a main point argued in the courts was whether Blackladies was one of the "greater" or "lesser" monasteries, as the settling of this question would decide whether Blackladies was or was not entitled to the benefit of the Act of 31 Henry VIII. c. 16. In the course of the various trials some curious evidence was adduced. In 1680, one of the witnesses, John Jones, swore to the fact of his having been Headborough of Brewood *sixty-three years before*, and that at that time he levied no rates in Blackladies. Many witnesses swore to having repeatedly perambulated the boundaries of Brewood

parish, and that they had never included Blackladies. It was urged by Wightwick that when Peter Giffard was living at Blackladies he had buried a son, who died there, at Brewood. John Giffard, in his reply (in Chancery) says that during the time his father lived at Blackladies he had certainly buried a child at Brewood;\* but that was because he was also possessed of Chillington, and had a vault belonging to Chillington in Brewood Church. John Giffard adds, that there is a large church and a spacious burial place belonging to him at Blackladies. It farther appears that Blackladies had been confiscated at the time of the Rebellion as well as Chillington, but that John Giffard had been enabled to redeem it by payment of a large fine; and he pleads that this fine was made larger because Blackladies was free from tithes and parochial rates.

One of Wightwick's most effective points was putting in an agreement between the Vicar of Brewood and the Black Nuns, dated in 1318, on the subject of tithes; this was met by the declaration that the lands titheable were certainly possessions of the monastery, in Brewood parish, but were not any portion of the demesne of Blackladies. There was plenty of evidence to prove that from the Dissolution to the time when Wightwick set up his claim, no demands had ever been made on Blackladies for either tithes or rates due to Brewood; and a lease is in existence (dated March 18, 1661) of the tithes of "The Kerrimores, Kerrimore Green, and Bishopswood," to John Giffard, of Blackladies, in which no pretence is made to claim tithes from Blackladies. Altogether, it seems difficult to understand how the courts came to their final decision.

The date of the parish suit (see page 60) should be 1698, instead of 1718.

---

## APPENDIX C.

---

### BROMHALL.

Shaw, in his account of Bromhall, has entirely omitted the mention of it in *Domesday*, in which record it is given as part of the lands of

\* See the register of this burial on page 35. Peter Giffard was then living at Blackladies, his father, Walter, being alive.

Robert de Stafford, which Warren held under him. (See page 5.) It is possible that the whole manor may have passed into the hands of the Bishops of Lichfield before Walter granted it to Ralph le Dapifer (Walter Durdent was Bishop from 1149 to 1161,) or the Bishops may have held land at Bromhall though not the manor *proper*. It certainly belonged to the Giffards (as it still belongs) early in the seventeenth century.

Bromhall is worthy of notice as having been for many generations the residence of the family of Careless. (Vide the Brewood Registers, *passim*.) There was born the celebrated Colonel, who shared the oak with Charles II. on the 6th of September, 1651. At a later period, the family who had been so long occupiers, laid claim to the absolute possession; and Peter Giffard was obliged, in 1724, to have recourse to an action of ejectment, which was tried at Stafford. On this occasion a witness, named William Lewis, was produced, who remembered the "late unhappy wars in England," when Mr. Giffard's family was driven out of Chillington, and Chillington Hall was made use of for a garrison, first by one party, then by the other. "The house was battered by cannon, and much broken and torn; and for many years the doors stood open, the walls being in ruins and the house uninhabited."

---

#### APPENDIX D.

---

##### ENGLETON.

Since the days of Shaw, the whole of the property of the Moretons, in Engleton, has been sold to Mr. Monckton. Shaw has omitted all mention of the Half Knight's Fee, in Engleton, held by Peter Giffard, in 1235, according to the TESTA DE NEVILL. The Giffards have still land and a mill at Engleton, which may fairly be presumed to be the original possession. Engleton was a member of the Episcopal Manor of Brewood, and always had its headborough appointed at the Leet. It is still a separate township for the maintenance of its highways.

---

#### APPENDIX E.

---

##### SOMERFORD.

As a considerable portion of Somerford was copyhold of the Manor of Brewood, the following information as to the later generations of the



Somerfords, of Somerford, and the recent disposal of the estate, has been obtained from the *Court Roll of Brewood*.

March 11, 1660.—John, son and heir of Francis Somerford, was admitted tenant to all the lands of his late father.

May 19, 1673.—The Leet Jury present that John Somerford, of Somerford, a customary tenant of the manor, has deceased, and that Francis Somerford is the eldest son and heir of the said John. And at the same court Francis was admitted tenant to the lord, and made his fealty.

August 22, 1681.—Francis Somerford surrendered all his copyholds in Brewood Manor to Christopher Claridge, of Wolverhampton, gentleman, by way of mortgage. This was redeemed, and the property surrendered by Claridge to Francis Somerford, September 30, 1683.

March 12, 1688.—Francis again surrenders (by way of mortgage) to Thomas Harris, of Weston, a part of the property; and on the 1st of April, 1689, the remainder is in the same manner surrendered to Thomas Mitton, of Wheaton Aston.

April 23, 1694.—Thomas Harris surrenders to Edward Jellicoe, of Coven; and at the same court John Somerford, of Somerford, surrenders his interest to the same Edward Jellicoe. At this time the lands are stated to be in the occupation of John Somerford; but it does not appear on the Roll whether he was the son of Francis, or what interest he had in the lands.

January 22nd, 1704.—Edward Jellicoe (then of Standeford) surrenders the greater part of his copyholds, which were late the lands of John Somerford, Esquire, to Walter Wrottesley, son of Walter Wrottesley, Baronet, whose fealty was respited because he was under age.

It appears from Shaw that the estate was bought by Sir Walter Wrottesley, the third Baronet; and it is presumed that he made Somerford his residence during the re-building of Wrottesley. Sir Walter was buried at Brewood, as was also his lady\* (his second wife, daughter of Judge Burton;) and Walter, the son of the second marriage, was the party admitted tenant to the Lord of the Manor.†

\* Registers, pp. 37. 38.

† The admission of a child likely to succeed to the property was a common practice in manor courts.

October 21, 1728.—The Lady Anne Wrottesley, of Somerford, widow, was admitted tenant. The land was then in the occupation of Walter Phipps.

November 19, 1733.—(Lady Anne Wrottesley had died in 1732.)—Thomas Wrottesley, Esquire, son of Walter Wrottesley, Esquire, was admitted tenant to the lands.

December 22, 1737.—Thomas Wrottesley surrendered to Robert Barbor, of Somerford, Esquire.

In 1761 George Barbor was admitted to the copyholds of his late father; and in 1779 the Hon. Edward Monckton became the possessor.

The Hon. Edward Monckton died in 1832, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Edward Monckton, Esq. who died unmarried in 1848, and was succeeded by his brother George the present Esquire of Somerford.

---

## APPENDIX F.

---

### VICARS OF BREWOOD.

To the imperfect list on page 40, must be added—1275 (April) Robert de Twyford; 1539, Henry Fleming. This latter name is found in the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, as the vicar at the time the survey was made. The earlier date has been obtained from a curious document, which is here printed *verbatim*.

#### *Ordinatio Vicariæ de Brewode per Decanum et Capitulum Lichfeldiæ.*

Notum sit omnibus præsens Scriptum visuris vel audituris, quod nos, R. Lich. Ecclesiæ Decanus, presentavimus in Capitulo nostro coram fratribus Dominum Robertum de Twyford Capellanum virum discretum in Literaturâ et moribus approbatum, ad Vicariam Ecclesiæ nostræ de Brewode, ad quam de consensu Fratrum erat admissus et institutus, prestito ab eo Sacramento de fideliter ministrando: ordinata autem erat Vicaria illa in toto altaragio, agnis, lanâ, et principali legato, Exceptis Decimis animalium et aliorum pertinentium ad Dominicum ipsius Decani, et excepto Capitulo loci. Solvet autem inde Vicarius nobis singulis annis decem marcas ad Pascham et ad Nativitatem beati Johannis Bapt. pro equalibus portionibus et ministrabit personaliter in officio sacerdotali, aut si impotens fuerit alium idoneum loco ipsius inveniet et Clericum idoneum diaconum: sustinebit insuper onera Ecclesiæ debita et consueta, et extraordinaria pro rata Vicariæ suæ. In cujus rei Testimonium presenti Scripto Sigillum nostrum fecimus apponi, datum Lichfeldiæ anno Domini 1275 mense Aprilis intrante.

## THE REV. W. BUDWORTH.

Among the preceptors whose exertions and abilities contributed to elevate the character of Brewood Free Grammar School, and that at a period when classical acquirements held a high rank in literary circles, none occupy a more conspicuous position than the Rev. William Budworth, who succeeded as Head Master on the death of Mr. Hillman. This learned and worthy schoolmaster was son of the Rev. Luke Budworth, Vicar of Longford, Derbyshire, and was educated at the Free Grammar School, in Market Bosworth, under the famous Anthony Blackwall. He was entered at Christ's College, Cambridge, and took the degree of A.B. 1720; A.M. 1726; and was soon after appointed Master of Rugeley School. He was subsequently elected by the trustees Head Master of Brewood School, obtained the Vicarage of Brewood, on the presentation of the Dean of Lichfield, and was also presented to the Donative Chapel of Shareshill, by Sir Edward Littleton, who entrusted to him the education of his nephew and heir, the late Sir Edward Littleton, for many years one of the Members of Parliament for the county of Stafford, and who died at Teddesley Hay, on the 18th of May, 1812. That elegant scholar, the celebrated Richard Hurd (subsequently Bishop of Worcester) was, at the same time, one of his pupils; and it is no small testimony to Mr. Budworth's merits to find Dr. Hurd describing him, in the dedication to Sir Edward Littleton, of his *Commentary on the Epistle to the Pisos*, as one "who possessed every talent of a perfect institutor of youth, in a degree, which, he believed, had been rarely found in any of that profession since the days of Quintilian." In 1736 he would have engaged our distinguished lexicographer and moralist, Dr. Johnson (then in the twenty-fifth year of his age) as an assistant in the school, had he not been apprehensive that the paralytic affection under which the great philologist laboured through life might have been the object of ridicule or of imitation among his pupils.\* The talents of Johnson could not have been unknown to

\* As to the influence this appointment, had it taken place, might have had upon the future life of Johnson, and through him, upon our literature, in many of its departments, we can only speculate; but the disappointment to Johnson (supposing it to have been one) was, in all probability, one of those circumstances which, in the end, contributed, in no small degree, to his own personal renown and to his country's literary reputation. He could scarcely, however, have sunk in the country pedagogue, for his aversion to teaching was insuperable.



Mr. Budworth, who, probably, was acquainted with him at Market Bosworth, where Johnson was a short time usher to Mr. Crompton, the successor of Mr. Blackwall. In the summer of 1745, Dr. Hurd, then Bishop of Worcester, and Sir Edward Littleton, were on their way to visit Mr. Budworth, when they heard that a fit of apoplexy, with which he was seized while walking in his garden, in which he took great delight, had deprived them of their instructor and friend. Mr. Budworth lost his wife a few years previously, and did not marry again. Mr. Budworth was an excellent scholar, and possessed, in an almost unrivalled degree, the rare and singular felicity of conveying his extensive knowledge into the minds of his pupils. He was an accomplished musician, and sang with great taste and judgment. In person he was rather above the middle height, and he had, it is recorded, perhaps as fine a presence as almost any man in the kingdom. His air, deportment, language, voice, in short, every word and every action announced the perfect gentleman. It is stated in the memoir\* from which this summary is taken, that he possessed "an irresistible and indescribable something which always commanded respect, and inspired the beholder with awe!" Sir Edward Littleton erected a monument to Mr. Budworth's memory, in the chancel of Shareshill Church, the inscription on which is believed to have been written by Bishop Hurd.

GUILIELMO BUDWORTH, A.M.  
 hujus simul ac Ecclesiæ de Brewood nuper Pastori,  
 et Literarii ibidem Ludipræfecto,  
 in utrumque munus  
 innocentia vitæ, morum comitate  
 humanioribus literis, eloquentiâ simplici  
 instructissimo,  
 in omnes perquam facili et benevolo,  
 in amicos summè officioso,  
 ab omni tamen erga homines illiberali obsequio,  
 potentiorum æquè cultui servili alienissimo;  
 Huic tali viro,  
 optimo olim præceptori,  
 amico insuper dilectissimo,  
 hoc qualecunque amoris & grati animi testimonium,  
 ponendum curavit  
 Edwardus Littleton, Baronettus. 1748.

\* Nichols's Literary Anecdotes, vol. 3.

To the Memory of

WILLIAM BUDWORTH, Master of Arts,  
Late Pastor of this Chapel, and Vicar of Brewood,  
And Head Master of the Free Grammar School there.

For the discharge of these respective duties  
most highly gifted,

By the purity of his life,—by the affability of his manners;  
By his literary attainments,—and by his unaffected eloquence.  
To all easy of access, and possessing benevolence of heart.

To his friends

zealous in the performance of every duty;  
at the same time

a stranger to servility of every kind;

And particularly disdaining to cultivate, by mean compliances,  
the favours of the Great.

To record the endowments of such a Man,

First his most distinguished Master,

And moreover his most affectionate Friend,

This Monument,

As a small token of his regard and gratitude,

was erected by

Sir Edward Littleton, Baronet.

1748.

## APPENDIX G.

ROGER DE WESEHAM.

[*Abridged from the Rev. S. Pegge's Memoirs of his Life.*]

All that is known of the early life of Roger de Weseham is that he was sent from school to Oxford, where he turned his mind chiefly to the prosecution and cultivation of Divinity; but his character as a scholar was more general, and even above the common rate of those times, Matthew Paris giving him this short but very comprehensive eulogium, “*Vir moribus et scientia eleganter insignitus.*” While at the University he became known, through the depth of his learning, and the credit of his academical studies, to that discerning patron of all learned men in those times, Robert Grosseteste, afterwards the celebrated Bishop of Lincoln, whose friend and associate he continued during his life, and

through whose influence he was appointed Archdeacon of Oxford, and afterwards Dean of Lincoln. On the death of Hugh de Pateshull, in 1242, a dispute arose between the King (Henry III.) and the Pope (Innocent IV.) respecting his successor, which ended in the appointment (not without some opposition from the King) of Roger de Weseham, who was consecrated Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield by the Pope himself, at Lyons, in 1245, the Bishops of Lincoln and Hereford assisting at the ceremony. He ruled the diocese eleven years. At last, being grown very old, and so paralytic that he was entirely unable to discharge the pastoral functions, (for some time he had been forced to employ a coadjutor or suffragan) he obtained leave of Pope Alexander IV. to divest himself of his see by cession, which he did in the presence of Henry de Lexington, Bishop of Lincoln, delegated by the Pope for that purpose, at his Manor or Palace of Brewood, about St. Nicholas's Day, 1256.\* The custom, on these occasions, was to make a provision for the cedent out of the revenues of the see. What this provision consisted of is not specifically expressed, but it amounted to an annual income of 300 marks. It is certain that the bishop continued at Brewood till his death, and died there, which makes it exceedingly probable, that that manor in particular was assigned to him. He did not long survive his resignation, departing this life on Sunday, May 20, 1257.\* He was buried at Lichfield, under an oratory of wood, opposite to Canon Ratcliffe's tomb, on Tuesday, May 22, and was the seventh prelate intombed in the Cathedral of Lichfield. Fulco, Archbishop of Dublin (connected with the locality as Dean of the Collegiate Church of Penkridge) attended the obsequies, and performed the Office. Bishop de Weseham was the founder of the Prebends of Rueton and Bobenhall, in the Church of Lichfield, and of Bolton, annexed to the Archdeaconry of Chester, which was anciently within this diocese. During Weseham's episcopate (in 1255) the monks of Coventry and the canons of Lichfield came to an agreement, and confirmed it by their hands and seals, that in all future elections of bishops by the two chapters, the number of votes from each place should be equal. This was a wise measure, and well calculated to prevent those animosities which had long harrassed these electors.

\* These are the correct dates,—those stated on page 7 are erroneous.



## APPENDIX H.

## BONAVENTURE AND ANDREW GIFFARD.

See note on p. 69.

THESE excellent and eminent men were the younger sons of Andrew Giffard, of Wolverhampton (who was killed in a skirmish, near that town, early in the Great Rebellion,) and grandsons of Walter Giffard, twelfth Lord of Chillington.

Bonaventure was born in Wolverhampton in 1642, and was from infancy dedicated to the priesthood. After obtaining in England as much education as was then practicable for persons of the Romish Faith, he was entered at the English College of Douay. Having completed his course there, he left in 1667, and entered the University of Paris, where he prosecuted his studies for ten years, and attained the degree of Doctor of Divinity.

On his return to England he was necessitated to pursue his sacred calling under most oppressive difficulties; and it is only known that he was ever earnest and zealous, in season and out of season; and yet so prudent and innocent that he was never subjected to suspicion even in that terrible period when, in the emphatic words of Hume, "reason could be no more heard than a whisper in the midst of the most violent hurricane."\*

After James the Second ascended the throne, and displayed such profound ignorance of the English character as publicly to announce his intention of establishing a Romish hierarchy, it was not likely that a man so eminent and excellent as Bonaventure Giffard would be suffered to remain in obscurity. He was immediately appointed one of the King's Chaplains and Preachers, and was shortly after promoted

\* History of England, c. lxvij.

to the episcopal dignity, being consecrated Bishop of Madaura April 27, 1687, and was the first Vicar Apostolic of the London District.

James, in his blindness, persisted in his mad and hopeless course towards a re-establishment of the Romish authority in England; a course not only fatal to the erring Church he loved, but equally to the crown he wore, and to the royal race of Stuart. Among other absurd plans of the King was that of intruding Roman Catholic Heads of Houses on the Universities. In the contest between James and Magdalen College, Oxford, Bishop Giffard was put forward, and by royal mandamus was appointed President of that college. He was invested by proxy on the 31st of March, 1688, in the place of Samuel Parker, Bishop of Oxford, then lately deceased. In the choice of Bonaventure Giffard on this occasion the King displayed a keen judgment and profound skill in dealing with public bodies, which did not usually distinguish his kingly career; for the bishop was personally offensive to none; and if any created being could, by his own influence, have bent the exemplary stubbornness of the men of Magdalen, when their faith was in question, Bonaventure Giffard was the man. Providentially the great affairs of the world moved on in their allotted course, irrespective of the infatuated Stuart or the amiable Giffard, and Oxford and England sufficiently asserted their adherence to a pure faith.

The Revolution of 1688 placed Bishop Giffard in great personal peril. It was long believed that he had left the realm to seek safety on the continent, but such was not the case; and shortly after the accession of William the Third to the throne, the bishop was discovered, apprehended, and committed to Newgate, under the powers of the severe penal laws against Papists. For nearly a year was his bitter captivity continued; but the Government, by that time finding itself tolerably settled, and the bishop's character being entirely free from any stain of political faction, and all the eminent men of his own faith being ready to answer for him, he was released without any charge being prosecuted against him.

From that period to his last hour he continued to reside in London or its immediate vicinity; discharging daily, among those who desired his ministrations, the important functions of a Christian pastor; loved

and trusted by all who came into the circle of his priestly avocations ; making himself eminently useful as a messenger of love and bounty between wealth and poverty ; and disarming by his inoffensive life even the suspicions of the Government and their emissaries.

He died at Hammersmith, in perfect peace, on the 12th of March, 1733, at the advanced age of 91.

“ If he distinguished himself in any part of his character more than another, it was in his charity to the poor, which was most extensive. These words of St. Paul—*nil habentes, omnia possidentes*—might justly be applied to him. Under the poorest circumstances he could command vast sums, which passed like continual streams through his hands to the support of innumerable persons, who never discovered the fountain from whence they flowed. His whole study was to search after those that had ability and a willing mind to concur with him ; and happy were the poor in so powerful an intercessor, who scarce ever pleaded their cause without being successful. The same pains he took to find out those that were in distress and true objects of charity. He penetrated into cellars and garrets to discover their wants ; but chiefly informed himself of such decayed families as in those troublesome times were reduced, and being strangers to labour had no other way of being relieved, but by one who seemed purposely appointed by Divine Providence, and who had the prudence to conceal their circumstances.”\*

Andrew, the younger brother of Bonaventure, was also brought up to the Church. He became Professor of Divinity in the College of Douay, and was afterwards sent as a Missioner to England. Under King James II. he was singled out to be a member of the projected new hierarchy, for he had all the required qualifications for an ecclesiastic of high rank :—lofty and unsullied birth, polished classical education, and a most admirable heart ; but humility was his adorning virtue, and though long and earnestly importuned to accept a mitre, he persisted in his refusal of that dignity.

In the lower, but not less important, sphere in which he was content to move, his exertions for the good of mankind were unbounded ; he

\* Mosheim's Church History, vol. 3, p. 469.



strained every nerve to serve others; and laboured with faithful zeal and consummate ability for the bodies and souls of his friends. His determined adherence to a strict quiescence in all matters unconnected with spiritual religion, leaves but faint traces of his beneficent track. His best eulogium was the grateful love of his suffering and terrified flock. He died in London, September 14, 1714.

After the death of Bonaventure, a monument was erected in St. Pancras's Churchyard to both their memories, bearing the following elegant inscription:—



Sub hoc lapide junguntur cineres  
Fratrum duorum in vita conjunctissimorum  
BONAVENTURÆ GIFFARD, E.M.V.A.  
et ANDRÆE GIFFARD, P.  
Qui ex nobili in Agro Staffordiensi familiâ oriundi  
Pietati in Deum et charitati erga homines,  
Jam inde a juvenilibus annis  
Se totos dedentes.  
Bonis ideo apprime chari,  
Malorum vexationibus quandoque objecti.  
Egregiâ semper apud omnes famâ;  
Omnia quæ virtutem, ingenium, doctrinam, sequi amant  
Bona malaque affatim experti:  
Deficientibus demum corporis viribus,  
Aliis plorantibus.  
Ipsi læti huic mundo clausurunt oculos  
Meliori mox aperturi  
Vade, lector, et quod vitæ superest similiter impende  
Sic tibi metipsi optime consules  
Sic illis dum vixerunt gratiam fecisses maximam  
Sic etiam mortuos lætari facies.  
Vale, tuique eorumque causâ  
Jam feliciter hac vita defunctorum  
Sæpe recordare.  
BONAVENTURA natus A.D. 1642, obiit Martii 12, 173 $\frac{3}{4}$ .  
Alter, biennio post natus, obiit Sep. 14, 1714.  
Requiescant in pace.



Under this stone are united the ashes  
Of two brothers, in life most strictly united;—  
BONAVENTURE GIFFARD, Bishop of Madaura and Vicar Apostolic,  
And

ANDREW GIFFARD, Priest,  
Who, born of a noble family in Staffordshire,  
Devoting themselves entirely  
To piety towards God and charity to men,  
Even from their earliest years;  
Extremely dear therefore to the good,  
And sometimes exposed to the persecutions of the wicked,  
With extraordinary repute amongst all,  
Experienced all those vicissitudes of good and evil  
Which are usually the lot of virtue, genius, and learning.  
At length, their bodily health failing them,  
While others wept,  
They joyfully closed their eyes to this world,  
Soon to open them to a better.  
Go, reader, and live the rest of thy life as they lived,  
So wilt thou consult thy best interests,—  
So would they while living have received the greatest pleasure,—  
So, even dead, wilt thou cause them to rejoice.  
Farewell! and for thy own and their sakes  
Often remember  
Them now so happily from life delivered.  
BONAVENTURE was born A.D. 1642,  
And died March 12, 173 $\frac{3}{4}$ .  
The other, being born two years later,  
Died September 14, 1714.  
May they rest in peace!

There is a beautiful portrait of Bishop Giffard in the dining room at Chillington—valuable as a work of art, but doubly precious as preserving the attractive lineaments of this eminent man, and thus fully realising all that has been written of his estimable character.

## APPENDIX I.

## THE COUNTESS OF CORK AND ORRERY.

THIS distinguished lady, so well known to the inhabitants of Brewood by her frequent visits at Somerford, was the youngest daughter of John first Viscount Galway, and in her fortieth year became the second wife of Edmund seventh Earl of Cork and Orrery. The earl died in 1798, leaving her a well-jointured widow. She survived him forty-two years, and almost to the hour of her death remained one of the greatest celebrities of our great metropolis. "She was very friendly, and delighted to do a kindness; she never thought it troublesome to speak, stir, write, or solicit for any of her *protégés*. Until a few days before her death she paid and received visits; got up at six in the morning, as she had done all through her life; and dined out whenever she had not company at home."\*

Every reader of Boswell must remember the anecdote of Johnson, in one of his fits of rudeness, calling the charming countess a dunce; and, on being afterwards reminded of it by the lady, answering, with admirable readiness, "Madam, if I had thought so, I certainly should not have said it."

Lady Cork's paramount pleasure was seeking out really distinguished people in politics, literature, wit, or fashion, to add to her brilliant parties. There is not a name of any importance in literature between Dr. Johnson and Lord Byron but what is associated with the attractive hospitality of Lady Cork. Lord Byron, writing in 1815 to Moore, says, "What would Lady Cork give to collect you and Jeffrey and me to *one* party?"—a passage that illustrates the known propensities of the dowager not less clearly than the noble lord's opinion of himself as a *celebrity*.

One of Lady Cork's most remarkable characteristics was her wonderful tenacity of memory. It is told of her that, in the year 1831, at a *soirée* at Lady Combermere's, she had ordered her carriage earlier than

\* Mrs. Mathews's Tea-Table Talk.



usual, and, on its being announced, she was attended down stairs by several gentlemen. Owing to some mistake her carriage had not arrived, but her ladyship refused to return up stairs, and waited in the hall until her carriage could be brought to the door. In that interval, seated on a hall chair, surrounded by the gentlemen who had attended her, she recited, in a most effective manner, a whole book of Pope's translation of the *Iliad*—a matter of six or seven hundred lines. She was then 84!

Speaking in her later years of Sheridan, she said, "I claim the merit of having been his first friend. I used to invite him and introduce him to people. His seat for Stafford was put in his way by me; my brother—Edward Monckton, you know—was his colleague all the time. In society, the object at first was to get his wife to one's parties—that charming Miss Linley—she sang so well. Nobody knew at that time what the husband was to turn out. A lady said to me once, 'I should like to have Mrs. Sheridan at my music on Tuesday, but then there's that drag of a husband!' In two years' time the 'drag' was *the* Mr. Sheridan of the House of Commons,—the pet of his party, the hero of the day, the idol of society."

An amusing account of Lady Cork's introduction of "the Wild Irish Girl" into the elegant and hospitable *salons* of New Burlington Street, is given in Lady Morgan's *Book of the Boudoir*. "I arrived," she says, "with a beating heart; and I heard the high-sounding titles of princes and ambassadors, and dukes and duchesses, announced, long before my own poor plebeian Hibernian name puzzled the porter, and was bandied from footman to footman, as all names are bandied, which are not written down in the red book of fashion, nor rendered familiar to the lips of her insolent menials. How I wished myself back in Tireragh, with my own princes, the O's and Mac's; and yet this position was among the items of my highest ambition. \* \* \* \* \* Lady Cork met me at the door of that suite of apartments which opens with a brilliant boudoir, and terminates with a sombre conservatory, where eternal twilights fall upon fountains of rose-water which never dry, and on beds of flowers which never fade,—where singing birds are always silent, and butterflies are for once at rest. \* \* \* \* \* Pre-

senting me to each and all of the splendid crowd, which an idle curiosity, easily excited, and as soon satisfied, had gathered round us, she prefaced every introduction with a little exordium, which seemed to amuse every one."

Amelia Opie was among the earliest and most attached of Lady Cork's friends; nor did the great change in Mrs. Opie's habits and opinions interrupt their friendly intercourse. Soon after she joined "the Society" Lady Cork wrote to her thus:—

"*Si vous êtes heureuse, je ne suis pas malheureuse,*" used to be my motto to you. I must be glad that you are happy; but I must confess I have too much *self*, not to feel it a tug at my heart, the *no-chance* I have of enjoying your society again. Will your primitive cap never dine with me, and enjoy a quiet society? but really, am I never to see you again? Your Parliament friend does not wear a broad-brimmed hat; so pray, pray, *pray* do not put on the bonnet. So come to me and be my love, in a dove-coloured garb, and a simple head-dress. Teach us your pure morals, and your friend of the Lower House shall join us, and approve of your compliance. He will agree with me, that good people, mixing with the world, are of infinitely more use than when they confine themselves to one set. \* \* \* I could fill a paper with fun, but the cold water of your last makes me end my letter. God bless you. Adieu.

Yours ever, sinner or saint,

M. CORK AND ORRERY.

Ten years later the following farewell letter was written:—

London, March 15th.

One thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven. Thanks dearest dear friend, for your cordial letter. Yes, thank God! 91 is quite well in health, and if my beloved friends enjoyed the same blessing, would be perfectly content in mind. Nephews and nieces whom you are not acquainted with, are suffering. They are folks whose virtues you must esteem, and some whose wit you would admire. Oh! why do you not come to town earlier in the season? Our dear Lady Frederick is not yet in town, but there are many of your playfellows. Yesterday dined with me, Rogers, Sydney Smith, Granby, and more wits and worthies, such as you would relish. \* \*

The picture of Hannah More, is by Gainsborough; I think it a little like her; when she was young she could not afford to have very fine, *long, diamond*, earrings; nor were they the fashion when I saw her flirting with Garrick; however, all the connoisseurs agree that it is an excellent painting. N.B.—There is a ring on the wedding-finger, which does not resemble blessed Hannah.

Poets are springing up like mushrooms, but the novels are sad trash. Lord Carnarvon's new publication much admired.

Yours more than words can express, says,

OLD M. CORK.



# INDEX.

	PAGE
Aspley .....	81
Bishop's Wood .....	53, 54
Blackladies ... ..	53, 55, 58—61, 99, 101
Boscobel.....	10, 58
Brinsford .....	83—84
Broomhall.....	5, 73—74, 101
Camera Regis.....	6
Chillington .....	5, 8—10, 54, 62, 72
Church.....	11—30, 89, 97—99
Coven.....	5, 53, 82
Engleton .....	74—79, 102
Episcopal Manor... ..	3—5, 7, 52, 58, 99
——— Residence.....	6, 7, 108
Forest.....	50—54, 62
Grammar School .....	8, 41—49, 105
Horsebrook .....	1, 3
Nunnery, Benedictine .....	53, 55, 58—61, 99—101
———, Cistercian.....	55—58
Pennocrucium .....	1—3
Prebend or } .....	4, 5, 7, 98
Rectory }	
Registers .....	30—39
Roman Brewood .....	1—3
Somerford .....	79—81, 102—104.
Vicars ... ..	40, 99, 104
Whiteladies .....	55—58











SL

Staffordshire

461.







